

## MASS PROTESTS Turkey court orders release of AFP journo, 2 others

AFP, Istanbul

A Turkish court yesterday ordered the release of three journalists, including AFP photographer Yasin Akgul, held after covering the country's worst unrest in over a decade, his lawyer and an NGO said.

Akgul, 35, was one of 11 journalists detained after days of covering mass protests that erupted on March 19 when Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main political rival — was arrested.

Eight were detained in Istanbul, and three others in the western coastal city of Izmir.

Seven of them were remanded in custody on Tuesday on charges of "taking part in illegal rallies and marches and failing to disperse despite warnings", court documents showed.



A demonstrator gestures on top of a fence during a protest outside the Indonesian Parliament against revisions to the country's military law, which would allocate more civilian posts for military officers, in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Myanmar junta preparing for Dec election

Says top general  
REUTERS

The chief of Myanmar's ruling junta yesterday vowed to hold a free and fair election in December, as he urged armed opponents in a widening civil war to renounce violence and pursue dialogue.

Min Aung Hlaing during a speech at the country's annual armed forces day parade said the military was seeking to hold a "dignified" election and promised to transfer power to the winning party.

He told hundreds of soldiers assembled at the sprawling parade ground in the capital Naypyitaw that they must support a free and fair, multi-party vote.

"The necessary preparations are underway for the election," he said.

## Putin's 'promises are hollow' in Ukraine talks

Warns UK PM; Macron says European countries to deploy to Ukraine after peace deal

AFP, London

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Russian President Vladimir Putin's "promises are hollow" on any eventual ceasefire with Ukraine, as Kyiv's allies met in Paris for a summit.

"Unlike (Ukrainian) President (Vladimir) Zelensky, Putin has shown he's not a serious player in these peace talks," Starmer said.

"Playing games with the agreed naval ceasefire in the Black Sea despite good faith participation from all sides — all while continuing to inflict devastating attacks on the Ukrainian people. His promises are hollow," he said.

The British leader said the United States "is playing a leading role by convening the ceasefire talks", adding, "President Zelensky has demonstrated his commitment repeatedly, and Europe is stepping up



to play its part to defend Ukraine's future.

"Now Putin needs to show he's willing to play ball," Starmer added.

French President Emmanuel Macron was hosting European leaders including President Volodymyr Zelensky for a summit aimed at boosting Ukrainian security ahead of any potential ceasefire with Russia to end the over three-year war.

The meeting that began yesterday was seeking to set out what security guarantees Europe can offer Ukraine once a ceasefire deal is agreed, including the possible deployment of military forces by a so-called "coalition of the willing".

Macron said that France and Britain were leading efforts to send a "reassurance force" to Ukraine after any peace in the conflict with Russia, even if the idea was not approved by all European allies.

## Yemen's Houthis say two killed in US strikes

AFP, Sanaa

Yemen's Houthi rebels said yesterday that two people were killed in overnight air strikes near Sanaa that they blamed on the United States.

The Houthis' Al-Masirah TV channel reported nearly 20 strikes on Sanaa governorate, both north and south of the capital.

"The American aggression killed two and injured two," the Houthi-run health ministry's spokesman Anis al-Asbahi said on social media platform X.

Al-Masirah also reported strikes early yesterday in Saada, the Iran-backed rebels' northern stronghold which Houthi media had said was hit 17 times the day before. The United States launched air strikes against the Houthis on March 15.

## SOUTHWEST PAKISTAN Gunmen kill 8 in 'coordinated' attacks: police

AFP, Quetta

Gunmen killed at least eight people in "coordinated" attacks in southwestern Pakistan that largely targeted bus passengers based on their ethnicity, police said yesterday, the latest in a spike in violence in the region.

Pakistan has been battling a separatist insurgency in Balochistan for decades, where militants target state forces, foreign nationals and non-locals in the mineral-rich southwestern province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

"Terrorists have targeted passenger buses and security officials in multiple districts of Balochistan, killing at least five non-local passengers and a security official," a senior provincial police official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The incident took place in the coastal town of Pasni in Gwadar district.

"They stopped passenger buses and identified non-local travellers," the official added.

Dozens of militants have carried out the attacks in several districts of the province after they took control of major highways and set up posts to search vehicles, the official said.

In some areas the attacks are still ongoing, he added. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement the attacks were "a cowardly act" and "a crime against humanity".

## 'We have to have' Greenland Says Trump ahead of Vance trip to the island

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump ramped up his claims to Greenland on Wednesday, saying ahead of a visit by Vice President JD Vance that the United States needed to take control of the Danish island for "international security."

Since coming to power in January, Trump has repeatedly insisted that he wants the self-governed territory to be in Washington's grip, refusing to rule out the use of force to do so.

"We need Greenland for international safety and security. We have to have it," Trump told podcaster Vince Coglianese. "I hate to put it that way, but we're going to have to have it."

Greenland, which is seeking independence from Denmark, holds massive untapped mineral and oil reserves, though oil and uranium exploration are banned.



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### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below:

SL No.	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender last selling Date & Time
1	1085007	OTM	Procurement of Computer accessories	25-Mar-2025 15:30	14-Apr-2025 15:30
2	1085700	OTM	Procurement of Accessories	25-Mar-2025 15:30	14-Apr-2025 17:00
3	1084107	OTM	Procurement of Toner	24-Mar-2025 15:30	15-Apr-2025 15:30
4	1091733	OTM	Procurement of consumables	24-Mar-2025 15:30	15-Apr-2025 17:00
5	1094092	OTM	Procurement of Stationaries	27-Mar-2025 15:30	16-Apr-2025 15:30
6	1094642	OTM	Printing and packaging of Annual Research Report, Research Highlights and Annual Research program (ARB, TRB, JTPDC)	27-Mar-2025 15:30	20-Apr-2025 17:00
7	1094090	OTM	Repairing, renovation and necessary works of Director General's Building Roof top and 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Office room & Common space at BJRI H.Q Dhaka-1207.	27-Mar-2025 15:30	16-Apr-2025 17:00
8	1092073	OTM	Necessary repair and renovation work of the drainage canal on the south side adjacent to Banglow No. 1, 2 and the large field in the residential area of BJRI H.Q Dhaka-1207.	27-Mar-2025 15:30	16-Apr-2025 17:00
9	1094670	OTM	Procurement of Chemicals	27-Mar-2025 18:00	20-Apr-2025 17:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested Persons/Firms can see details in the website: <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

(Dr. Md. Yusufuddin Sarker)  
Director (Admin & Finance)  
BJRI, Dhaka

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Chief Adviser's Office**  
**Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority**  
Cumilla Export Processing Zone  
Old Airport Area, Cumilla-3500.  
(www.bepza.gov.bd)

Ref. no. 03.06.1933.333.33.013.24-273 Date: 27 March 2025

### "Revised Auction Notice"

An open auction notice no.03.06.1933.333.33.013.24-176, dated: 25 February 2025 for selling of the structure, machinery, equipment and other assets of the closed and terminated enterprise M/s. Royal Denim Ltd., Plot # 108-110, 111 (part), 122 (part), 123 (part) & 124-126, Cumilla EPZ, was published on March 05, 2025, in the newspapers namely "Daily Shironam", "Daily Ittefaq" and "The Daily Star". As per the published auction notice, the date and time for physically seeing the materials were from 20-25 March 2025 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; purchasing auction schedule were 06 April 2025 during office hours; dropping of auction schedule in the tender box were from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on 07 April 2025 and for opening of the submitted auction documents in the tender box were scheduled at 12:30 PM on the same day. In order to make the said auction more participatory, the date and time of the ongoing published auction notice have been revised as follows:

Sl	Description of Auction	Subject	Rescheduled date & time
		Inventoried Structure, Machineries, Equipment & other Assets under the inventory list may be seen	08-10 April 2025 & During office hours
1	Sale of inventoried and valued structure, machinery, equipment, and other assets of the terminated textile product manufacturing enterprise M/s. Royal Denim Ltd., Plot # 108-110, 111 (part), 122 (part), 123 (part) & 124-126, Cumilla EPZ, on "as and where basis" through auction.	Last date for purchasing of auction schedule	Up to 16 April 2025 & During office hours
		Date & Time of auction schedule dropping into the tender box	17 April 2025 & From 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
		Date & Time of opening of submitted schedule in the tender box	17 April 2025 & At 12:30 pm

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