

## Iran agrees to fourth round of nuclear talks with US: report

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran has agreed to hold a fourth round of indirect nuclear talks with the United States on Sunday in Oman, the semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported yesterday, citing a member of the Iranian team.

The fourth round of negotiations, initially scheduled for May 3 in Rome, was postponed, with mediator Oman citing "logistical reasons".

Following a proposal by the Omani foreign minister to hold the fourth round of talks on Sunday, Tehran has announced its agreement," Tasnim quoted the unnamed member of Iran's delegation as saying. "The fourth round of Iran-U.S. talks in Oman has been finalised."

US President Donald Trump, who withdrew the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, has threatened to bomb Iran if no agreement is reached with his administration to resolve the long-standing dispute.



This photo, taken on Thursday and released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday, shows a joint strike drill involving long-range artillery and missile systems of the Korean People's Army's eastern front division at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

PHOTO: AFP

## Doubts growing over govt's ability

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During the time of autocratic rule, it was not just Sumon, but countless others across Dhaka and the entire country were abducted, tortured and murdered."

The BNP leader noted that Sumon's sister, Sanjida Islam Tuli, founded a social organisation in 2014 called Mayer Dak, bringing together the families of those who disappeared during the autocratic rule.

"This is a matter

of great concern and astonishment that the police administration raided Sumon's sister's house last evening in an attempt to arrest him."

Tarique said the police later claimed they were unaware of Sumon's disappearance.

"For the sake of argument, let's assume they were unaware of Sumon's case. But a former president, who served during the autocratic regime, was able to leave the country through the

airport yesterday [early Thursday]."

The BNP leader said former president Abdul Hamid fled the country in a manner almost similar to that of Sheikh Hasina.

Tarique said the interim government now claims to have known nothing about Hamid's departure. "Since yesterday, I have spoken to many people, and each one is questioning what the interim government truly knows."

At the same time, he said, allegations are

emerging that the interim government is wasting time under the guise of reform, possibly to create opportunities for the fleeing autocrats and their associates to leave the country safely.

"On the other hand, it may be trying to create grounds to subtly sow division within the unity of anti-autocratic or anti-fascist political parties through various issues. These issues are repeatedly raising questions in the minds of the people."

## Helicopter crash in Sri Lanka kills 6 military personnel

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A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter crashed during a graduation ceremony yesterday, plunging into a reservoir and killing six of the 12 people on board, a military official said.

The personnel were preparing for a grappling demonstration when their Bell 212 careened into the reservoir at the Maduru Oya national park, the official told AFP.

"There were 12 people

on board, and six of them survived with minor injuries," said the official, who declined to be named.

Those killed included four special forces commandos and two Air Force gunners. The survivors were admitted to hospital.

The crash took place halfway through the ceremony in Maduru Oya, nearly 300 kilometres (187 miles) east of Colombo.

After a slew of parades, the chopper crew were expected to perform a

"fast-rope" manoeuvre, showcasing their skills in descending from the helicopter while it hovered just above roof height.

After the crash, the graduation ceremony was called off and an investigation into the cause of the incident was launched.

"The Commander of the Air Force has appointed a special nine-member committee to conduct a detailed investigation," the military said in a statement.

## 80pc tariff

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by the Biden administration.

China hit back by imposing export curbs on some rare earth elements and raising tariffs on US goods to 125 percent, in addition to extra levies on select products including soybeans and liquefied natural gas.

The weekend talks in Geneva have been described by Trump administration officials as a step towards de-escalating tensions with China.

## T rex ancestors

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Morrison told CNN.

T rex ancestors — tyrannosaurus — would have been fewer in number within their environment compared with the herbivorous dinosaurs they preyed on, much like apex

predators such as lions are today, Morrison said.

"And because they are fewer, there are also fewer chances for them to then be preserved in the fossil record," he said.

## No concrete progress

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ceasefire that began in January this year but cut off all supplies when it resumed its offensive against Hamas in March.

"The Israelis are going to be involved in providing necessary military security because it is a war zone but they will not be involved in the distribution of the food or even bringing the food into Gaza," Huckabee told a press conference.

Asked whether the supply of aid was dependent on a ceasefire being agreed between Israel and Hamas, Huckabee said: "The humanitarian aid will not depend on anything other than our ability to get the food into Gaza."

"So, it is not dependent upon other things regarding military action," he said.

Meanwhile, a UNRWA spokeswoman yesterday said it is "very difficult" to imagine any operation to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza Strip without the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

## Two sisters

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Misthi found both women had injuries to the head. She also discovered that their almirah was open.

Speaking to this newspaper at the spot, Mirpur Police Station Sub-Inspector Mamun Hossain said the bodies have been sent to the morgue for post-mortem examinations.

"In our primary observation, it appears that two women were murdered. We're looking into the incident to determine the motive and identify suspects," he added.

## Ivy arrested, sent to jail

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a third term, is accused in at least five cases over the killings and attacks during the uprising that ousted the party last year, according to Tarek Al Meledi, an additional superintendent of police.

Talking to reporters before leaving with the police, Ivy denied any wrongdoing and questioned the arrest, adding that she was unaware of the charges.

"Am I an oppressor? Have I committed murder, engaged in extortion? Do I have any record of attacking any opposition party in Narayanganj city? Then, for what reason, in whose interest, have I been arrested?" she said.

Noting that the uprising was rooted in the anti-

discrimination student movement, she asked, "So, why is this discrimination still here? Then, what is the value of honest politics and integrity?"

Ivy also said police claimed an arrest warrant was issued against her, but could not show any document. "I'm going with them out of respect for the law," she said.

More drama followed as a group of people attacked the police vehicle carrying Ivy on its way to the SP's office around 6:30am.

The attackers hurled bricks and stones, and two crude bombs also exploded when the vehicle reached near the former Grindlays Bank branch on Bangabandhu Road, witnesses said. Police then sped up and left the place.

Ivy was unhurt, but several of her supporters, who were marching behind the police vehicles, and two police personnel were injured in the attack, said Nasir Uddin Ahmad, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

A police man was seen being taken to the 300 bed hospital in Narayanganj with serious injuries.

The attackers later brought out a sudden procession in the city, chanting slogans against the Awami League and Ivy.

Her supporters blamed BNP activists for the attack.

Narayanganj city BNP Convener Sakhawat Hossain Khan, who lost to Ivy in the 2016 mayoral polls, said he had no information about anyone from the party

or its affiliated bodies' involvement in the attack. "If anyone has done so, organisational action will be taken against them following an investigation."

Later in the day, a Narayanganj court ordered to send Ivy to jail after police produced her in a case filed over the killing of a garment worker named Minarul during the July uprising.

Police did not seek her remand while no bail petition on her behalf was submitted, said Court Police Inspector Kairum Khan.

Ivy, the first woman to become a mayor in Bangladesh, was later taken to Kashimpur Female Central Jail in Gazipur, said Forkan Wahid, jailer of Narayanganj District Jail.

The Chief Adviser's Press

## NCP, protesters block Shahbagh

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It is a fight against those who exploited and oppressed us for over 15 years."

NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen said, "We will no longer tolerate any further delays. We are ready to stay here in Shahbagh for days. We will not return home until our demands are met."

Another group of protesters kept the capital's Rampura bridge blocked for around two hours from 10:00pm, leading to long tailbacks, said Ataur Rahman Akand, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station. The road was still blocked after midnight.

Protesters kept the Dhaka-Aricha Highway blocked in Savar for over two hours last night. "They neither hear the cries of the martyrs nor the screams of the injured," he said.

Around 8:00pm, NCP Convener Nahid Islam wrote on Facebook that the students and masses would again march to Dhaka like they did to topple the AL regime, unless the government banned the AL.

"All the forces behind last year's anti-fascist uprising would stay united on the question of the country's sovereignty and banning the Awami League," he wrote.

Earlier, Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (north) of NCP, said all the political forces, except the BNP, had joined the blockade.

"The unity of July [uprising] will be reestablished if the BNP joins," he wrote on Facebook.

At the rally on Hare Road, Hasnat said he respected the politicians who fought against fascism and urged them not to "try to reopen the chapter of Awami League which was closed on August 5".

Supporters of Hefazat-e-Islam, AB Party, Khelafat Majlis, Chhatra Shibir, Jatiya Ganotantrik Party, UP Bangladesh, July Mancha, Inqilab Mancha, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, and several other organisations took part in the demonstration.

Hefazat in a statement said the AL should be banned for killing its activists at Motijheel in the and the July killings.

Hefazat urged its activists and the general public to remain on the streets.

**PRESSWING STATEMENT**  
The statement from the CA Press Wing said the government would consult



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