

POST-COUP MYANMAR

Junta mandates prison sentences for polls critics

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta said yesterday it has enacted a new law dictating prison sentences for critics or protesters of their planned election, which is being boycotted by opposition groups.

The junta seized power in a 2021 coup, sparking a many-sided civil war, and has touted elections at the end of this year as a path to peace.

Opposition groups -- including democratic lawmakers ousted by the military takeover -- and international monitors have called the polls a ploy to legitimise the junta's rule.

State newspaper The Global New Light of Myanmar said the "Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic Elections from Obstruction, Disruption and Destruction" was enacted on Tuesday.

Its 14-page text forbids "any speech, organising, inciting, protesting or distributing leaflets in order to destroy a part of the electoral process".

Individuals convicted face between three and seven years behind bars.

Support for Israel's Gaza war hits new low in US: poll

AGENCIES

A new poll from the research firm Gallup suggests that only 32 percent of Americans approve of Israel's military action in Gaza, a 10-point drop from September 2024, as anger over atrocities against Palestinians continues to rise.

The survey, released on Tuesday, also showed an enormous partisan divide over the issue. Seventy-one percent of respondents who identified as members of the Republican Party said they approve of Israel's conduct, compared with 8 percent of Democrats, reports Al Jazeera online.

Overall, 60 percent of respondents said they disapprove of Israel's action in Gaza. Shibley Telhami, a professor at the University of Maryland, said the latest survey shows a trend of growing discontent with Israel that goes beyond the war on Gaza.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Evacuated residents are seen on the roof of a fire station in Mukawa Town, Hokkaido, Japan yesterday, after Japan issued an evacuation alert following a major earthquake in Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula that triggered a tsunami warning.

Huge quake off Russia sparks Pacific tsunamis

Warnings issued, later downgraded in Japan, Hawaii, Russia

REUTERS

A very powerful magnitude 8.8 earthquake off Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka coast yesterday triggered tsunami warnings as far away as French Polynesia and Chile, and was followed by an eruption of the most active volcano on the peninsula.

The shallow quake damaged buildings and injured several people in the remote Russian region, while much of Japan's eastern seaboard - devastated by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in 2011 - was ordered to evacuate, as were parts of Hawaii.

By the evening, Japan, Hawaii and Russia had downgraded most of their tsunami warnings. But authorities in French Polynesia warned residents of several of the remote Marquesas Islands to move to higher ground and expect waves as high as 2.5 metres (8 feet).

Russian scientists said the

- Klyuchevskoy volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula began erupting
- Massive earthquake struck on 'megathrust fault': scientists
- Waves up to 1.7 metres high impacted Hawaii
- 3 tsunami waves recorded in Japan, largest of 1.3 metres

quake in Kamchatka was the most powerful to hit the region since 1952.

"It felt like the walls could collapse any moment. The shaking lasted continuously for at least three minutes," said Yaroslav, 25, in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there had been no casualties in Russia from the quake, crediting solid building construction and the smooth working of alert systems.

In Severo-Kurilsk in the northern Kuril Islands, south of Kamchatka, tsunami waves exceeded 3 metres, with the largest up to 5 metres, Russia's RIA news agency reported.

The Klyuchevskoy volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula began erupting later, a geological monitoring service said.

"A descent of burning hot lava is observed on the western slope. Powerful glow above the volcano, explosions," the Russian Academy of Sciences' United Geophysical

Service said in a statement posted on Telegram.

The US Geological Survey said the earthquake was shallow at a depth of 19.3 km (12 miles), and centred 119 km (74 miles) east-southeast of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, a city of 165,000.

The quake occurred on what is known as a "megathrust fault" where the denser Pacific Plate is sliding underneath the lighter North American Plate, according to scientists.

Hawaii recorded waves of up to 1.7 metres while in Japan the largest recorded came to 1.3 metres, officials said. Flights out of Honolulu airport resumed in the evening, the transportation department said.

Waves of nearly half a metre were observed as far away as California, with smaller ones reaching Canada's province of British Columbia.

In French Polynesia, waves started to hit some islands in the early morning hours of yesterday.

CROSS-BORDER FIGHTING

Thai, Cambodia trade allegations of truce breaking

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand and Cambodia yesterday exchanged allegations of breaching a ceasefire deal which has largely halted the open combat that engulfed their frontier.

The nations agreed a truce starting Tuesday after five days of clashes killed at least 43 on both sides, as a long-standing dispute over contested border temples boiled over into fighting on their 800-kilometre boundary.

But Thailand's foreign ministry said its troops in Sisaket province "came under attack by small arms fire and grenade assaults launched by Cambodian forces" in an offensive which continued until Wednesday morning.

"This represents a flagrant violation of the ceasefire agreement," said a foreign ministry statement.

Thai government spokesman Jirayu Huangsab also reported overnight clashes.



Israel intercepts missile fired from Yemen

Houthis claim responsibility

AFP, Jerusalem

Sirens sounded in several Israeli cities, including Jerusalem, on Tuesday evening as the military said it intercepted a missile launched from Yemen, with Houthi rebels later claiming the attack.

"Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in several areas in Israel, a missile launched from Yemen was intercepted by the Israeli air force", the military said in a statement.

The Houthis later claimed the attack, saying they had fired a missile at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have launched repeated missile and drone attacks against Israel since their Palestinian ally Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel sparked the Gaza war.

The Houthis, who say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians, paused their attacks during a two-month ceasefire in Gaza that ended in March, but renewed them after Israel resumed major operations.

Israel has carried out several retaliatory strikes in Yemen, targeting Houthi-held ports and the airport in the rebel-held capital Sanaa.

Houthis released footage on Monday of crew members missing after attacks on the Eternity C and Magic Seas cargo ships, claiming in an accompanying statement to have "rescued" the mariners.



Smoke rises from a food warehouse compound that was struck by a Russian military attack yesterday in the village of Vasyshcheve, near Kharkiv, Ukraine. The Kremlin said it has continued to monitor statements by US President Donald Trump regarding sanctions against Moscow, but Russia had acquired immunity to such measures thanks to long experience.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US, India launch powerful Earth-monitoring satellite

AFP, Washington

A formidable new radar satellite jointly developed by the United States and India was launched yesterday, designed to track subtle changes in Earth's land and ice surfaces and help predict both natural and human-caused hazards.

Dubbed NISAR (Nasa-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), the pickup truck-sized spacecraft was lifted off at 5:40 pm (1210 GMT) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on India's southeastern coast, riding an ISRO Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle rocket.

Highly anticipated by scientists,

the mission has also been hailed as a milestone in growing US-India cooperation between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It has been designed to track subtle changes in Earth's land and ice surfaces.

"Our planet surface undergoes constant and meaningful change," Karen St Germain, director of Nasa's Earth Science division, told reporters. "Some change happens slowly. Some happens abruptly. Some changes are

large, while some are subtle."

By picking up on tiny changes in the vertical movement of the Earth's surface -- as little as one centimeter (0.4 inches) -- scientists will be able to detect the precursors for natural and human-caused disasters, from earthquakes, landslides and volcanoes to aging infrastructure like dams and bridges.

"We'll see land substance and swelling, movement, deformation and melting of mountain glaciers and ice sheets covering both Greenland and Antarctica, and of course, we'll see wildfires," added St Germain, calling NISAR "the most sophisticated radar we've ever built."

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নম্বর: ৪৩.২০.০০০০.০১৩.৩৫.০০৩.২৫.২২

তারিখ: ২৯.০৭.২০২৫

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১. সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
২. সংগ্রহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	সচিব, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
৩. জেলা	ঢাকা
৪. বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত
৫. দরপত্রের নাম/ কাজের বিবরণ	একাডেমির কর্মকর্তা, শিল্পী ও কর্মচারীদের অফিসে আনা-নেয়ার জন্য ০২(দুই)টি এসি কোম্পার বাস ভাড়া সংক্রান্ত কাজ।
৬. দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি	অর্থ, হিসাব ও পরিকল্পনা উপবিভাগ, নিচতলা, প্রশিক্ষণ ভবন, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
৭. ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)
৮. দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় শুরুর দিন ও সময়	৩১-০৭-২০২৫, সকাল ৯:০০ টা
৯. দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ দিন ও সময়	১৩-০৮-২০২৫, বিকাল ৪:৩০ টা পর্যন্ত
১০. দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪-০৮-২০২৫, দুপুর: ২:০০টা
১১. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪-০৮-২০২৫, দুপুর: ২-৩০টা সচিবের দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
১২. প্রতি দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
১৩. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি	১। হালনাগাদ ড্রই লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ এবং হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়নপত্র, বাস এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, হালনাগাদ বীমা সনদ, হালনাগাদ ফিটনেস সনদ, হালনাগাদ ট্যাক্স টোকেন ও হালনাগাদ রোড পারমিট সনদসহ। ২। দরপত্রের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী, নিয়মাবলী, দরপত্র সিডিউল/তফসিলে উল্লেখ আছে। ৩। ফ্রাউটপ/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ৪। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারন দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। ৫। দরপত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬, পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী বিধি বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।
১৪. দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সাথে যেকোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক (সিডিউল ব্যাংক) হতে মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমির অনুকূলে কাজের ক্ষেত্রে ১,৮০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ আশি হাজার) টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নিরাপত্তা জামানত হিসেবে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৫. দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	জনাব মোহাম্মদ ওয়ারেছ হোসেন
১৬. দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবি	সচিব
১৭. দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।

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মোহাম্মদ ওয়ারেছ হোসেন

সচিব

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