

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.



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.

Last push to beat US tariff deadline
Manifesto

FROM PAGE 1

Uddin. He was accompanied by National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman and Additional Commerce Secretary Nazneen Kawsar Chowdhury.

On the US side, Assistant Trade Representative Brendan Lynch is leading the delegation, accompanied by officials handling trade and tariff matters.

Bangladesh's economy is heavily reliant on exports to the United States, particularly garments, which made up the majority of the \$8.2 billion in goods shipped to the American market in 2024. Bangladesh officials fear that any tariff above the current levels would severely damage competitiveness and disrupt employment in an already pressured global market.

Speaking from Washington, Commerce Secretary Rahman expressed cautious optimism. "We are confident our position is being seriously considered. We've made major offers to help balance trade, and the tone of the meetings has been constructive."

In recent weeks, Bangladesh has revised its negotiating strategy, presenting a package of concessions and market access promises that directly address US concerns over its \$6 billion trade surplus with Dhaka.

The government plans to import 3.5 million tonnes of American wheat over the next five years and purchase 25 Boeing aircraft under a multibillion-dollar deal. Additional plans have been offered to expand the import

of US liquefied natural gas, cotton, soybeans, and other agricultural products.

These proposals, Bangladesh officials say, are aimed at demonstrating reciprocal trade goodwill and positioning the country as a cooperative economic partner in Washington's new trade architecture.

Privately, some Bangladesh delegates suggest the country could increase US imports by as much as \$2 billion annually if policy support on port infrastructure and shipping logistics were improved at home. One major importer of US commodities, who requested anonymity, said this week from Washington that a favourable tariff outcome would unlock significant trade potential. "If the government provides proper port facilities, we could easily scale up imports of soy and LPG," he said.

The final outcome of the talks will be revealed soon. But there is no question that Bangladesh is now in a race against the clock.

US-INDIA TALKS BREAK DOWN

Elsewhere, some countries are experiencing far rougher treatment. India, the world's fifth-largest economy, has already been hit with a 25 percent tariff by the Trump administration, along with a warning of additional penalties over the country's military and energy purchases from Russia.

Talks between Indian and US negotiators, which had stretched over months, broke down over New Delhi's refusal to open its domestic market to US agricultural products. Washington had pushed for

access to sensitive sectors including wheat, rice, corn, and genetically modified soybeans -- demands India resisted, citing the need to protect smallholder farmers.

The Indian tariff decision has alarmed exporters in Delhi, particularly those in labour-intensive industries such as garments, pharmaceuticals, jewellery, and chemicals. With India's exports to the US valued at \$87 billion in 2024, the economic fallout could be significant.

For Bangladesh, the difference between being in and out of a deal could define the trajectory of its economy over the coming years. The country's ready-made garments sector, which employs more than four million workers, is already operating on razor-thin margins. Any added tariff, even in the 15 percent range, would squeeze exporters and make it harder to compete with rivals like Vietnam and China, both of which have made strategic inroads in the US market.

As the deadline nears, the mood in Dhaka's export hubs is tense. "We are holding our breath," said a senior executive at a leading apparel group. "The US is our largest market. A tariff of 35 percent would destroy that. Even 15 percent is not easy. We need this deal."

For now, Bangladesh is still at the negotiating table, its economic future hanging in the balance. Whether it secures relief or joins the growing list of countries facing Trump's new tariff wall will be decided in a matter of hours, and could shape the nation's trade landscape for years to come.

FROM PAGE 1

conspiracies were being hatched and obstacles placed. Reforms initiatives were being obstructed," he said at a rally in Narsingdi on the last day of NCP's month-long march.

The party started the march on July 1 after paying tribute to Abu Sayed in Rangpur, and it ended with rallies at Narsingdi and Ashulia of Dhaka last night.

At the Narsingdi rally, Nahid alleged that they were not allowed to frame a new constitution and to remove President Mohammed Shahabuddin elected by the fascist Awami League. He also criticised the interim government for not presenting the "July Declaration".

"Although Mahfuj Alam and Asif Mahmud are not members of our party, they are student representatives of the July uprising. They are working to realise the aspirations of July. But there is a plot underway to remove them," Nahid continued.

He said, "In Narsingdi, land grabbing and extortion continue, but we will drive out those responsible."

Nahid expressed gratitude for people's overwhelming support for their countrywide march. Over the last five months, the NCP received unpresented response from the people and the "party will win in the coming parliament and in the new Bangladesh", he said.

At its final rally of the march in Baipail intersection in Ashulia, Nahid said, "Sheikh Hasina's crimes will not be reduced even if she is hanged 10 times.

"The people of Bangladesh will never forgive Hasina. They will never forgive the Awami League... they will not even forgive a refined Awami League."

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি	
সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।	
www.shilpakala.gov.bd	
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 কোয়ার্টার 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 ট্রেন্ড 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। ফ্রাটপূর্ণ/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 ওয়ারেখ হোসেন
১৬. দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবি	সচিব
১৭. দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
০৫-১৬৪৫	
(মোহাম্মদ ওয়ারেখ হোসেন) সচিব ফোন:২২৩৩৮৪৬১৭	