

Pak opposition leader given 10 yrs for Imran Khan protests

AFP, Islamabad

The opposition leader in Pakistan's parliament was among more than 100 people convicted yesterday over nationwide protests in support of Imran Khan in 2023, his party said.

A statement from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) said six members of parliament, a senator, and a provincial MP, were given 10-year sentences, a week after several others were also convicted.

Among them was Omar Ayub Khan, the opposition leader in the National Assembly, who did not attend the protests.

He was convicted at an anti-terrorism court in the eastern city of Faisalabad of abetting violence and conspiring to incite riots and arson. "We are going to challenge this in the upper court," PTI chairman Gohar Ali Khan told reporters.



Palestinian men gather beside a burnt car following an attack by Israeli settlers in the village of Silwad, near Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

2008 BOMBING Indian court acquits ex-MP, six others

AFP, Mumbai

An Indian court yesterday acquitted a firebrand Hindu nationalist nun and former lawmaker, and six others accused of participating in a deadly bombing near a mosque in 2008.

The attack killed six people and wounded more than 100 others when a bomb strapped to a motorcycle exploded close to the mosque in Malegaon in the western state of Maharashtra.

Seven people were tried on terrorism and criminal conspiracy charges, including former MP from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, in a case that dragged on for years.

The prosecution claimed Thakur's motorbike was used to carry the explosives used in the attack, and that she took part in a key planning meeting before it was staged.

OCCUPIED WEST BANK VILLAGE OF SUSIYA Israeli settlers cut off water, power sources Say Palestinians; Israeli minister hints at annexing parts of Gaza

REUTERS, Susiya

Palestinians in the village of Susiya in the Israeli-occupied West Bank thought life could not get worse as Jewish settlers were attacking them repeatedly and ripping apart their precious olive groves.

Then settlers armed with knives set upon their water sources, villagers said.

"They want us to live without water, and here they also cut the electrical wires," said Mousa Mughnem, 67, who lives with his 60-year-old wife Najah in the village near the town of Hebron.

Palestinians in the West Bank have reported growing Israeli settler violence since war erupted between Israel and Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza on October 7, 2023.

Palestinian authorities who exercise limited self-rule in parts of the West Bank say the settlers are trying to force Palestinians off their lands in order to seize them.

Emboldened by some far-right Israeli government ministers who seek to annex the West Bank, settlers have assaulted Palestinian farmers, cut down trees and set fire to precious olive groves.

Jihad Al-Nawajaa, the head of the Susiya village council, said the water shortages have become unbearable. "If we do not have water here, we will not survive. They make us thirsty in order to expel us, and their aim is to expel people," he said.

Residents of Susiya accuse Israeli settlers of severing water pipes and electricity wires, chopping down their olive trees and preventing them from herding their sheep.

In response to a Reuters request for a comment on settler attacks in Susiya, the Israeli military said soldiers have been dispatched to deal with any troubles and have removed Israeli citizens involved.

"As for the most recent incident that occurred on Monday (July 28), same protocol was used, and no injuries were reported," the army said.

Palestinians have cultivated olive trees for generations and regard them as an enduring symbol of their national identity.

Some villagers, like Najah Mughnem, are defiant and say they will remain attached to their land and their olives no matter what the settlers do.

Meanwhile, an Israeli minister said on Wednesday Israel could threaten to annex parts of Gaza to increase pressure on Hamas, an idea that would deal a blow to Palestinian hopes of statehood on land Israel now occupies.

Accusing Hamas of trying to drag out ceasefire talks to gain Israeli concessions, security cabinet member Zeev Elkin told public broadcaster Kan that Israel may give the group an ultimatum to reach a deal.

25 PERCENT TARIFF Modi faces opposition fury after Trump threat

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian opposition parties yesterday criticised the government, describing US President Donald Trump's threat of a 25 percent tariff as a diplomatic failure for New Delhi, while the rupee currency tumbled and equity indexes slid in response to the news.

The 25 percent rate would single out India more harshly than other major trading partners, and threatens to unravel months of talks, undermining one of Washington's strategic partners in the region, viewed as a counterbalance to China.

Trump said the tariff on imports from India would start from today, in addition to an unspecified penalty for Russian dealings and involvement in the BRICS grouping of nations.

Return soldiers taken in border clashes

Cambodia urges Thailand as truce holds

REUTERS

Cambodia yesterday accused Thailand of detaining 20 of its soldiers and killing another in post-ceasefire incidents, as a fragile peace held for a third day along their disputed border.

Five days of intense clashes between the Southeast Asian neighbours that began last week killed at least 43 people, many of them civilians, and displaced more than 300,000, until a truce brokered in Malaysia on Monday halted the fighting.

Thailand has since accused Cambodian troops of violating the ceasefire multiple times, a charge denied by authorities in Phnom Penh, who instead allege that the Thai military has wrongfully detained a number of its soldiers.

"We appeal to the Thai side to promptly return all 20 of our forces, including other forces if any are under Thai control," Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said yesterday.

In a statement, senior Cambodian defence official Lieutenant General Rath Dararoth said one Cambodian soldier had died in Thai custody since the ceasefire and his body had been returned. He did not provide further details.

Pacific tsunami warnings lifted Millions return home

AFP, Puerto Ayora

Countries across Pacific rim lifted tsunami warnings earlier yesterday, allowing millions of evacuees to return home.

After one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded rattled Russia's sparsely populated Far East, more than a dozen nations -- from Japan to the US to Ecuador -- warned citizens to stay away from coastal regions.

Storm surges of up to four metres were predicted for some parts of the Pacific, after 8.8 quake struck off Russia's Kamchatka peninsula.

The tsunami warnings caused widespread disruption. Peru closed 65 of its 121 Pacific ports and authorities on Maui cancelled flights to and from the Hawaiian island. But fears of a catastrophe were not realised, with country after country lifting or downgrading warnings and telling coastal residents they could return.

In Japan, almost two million people had been ordered to higher ground, before the warnings were downgraded.



This handout photo, released yesterday by Spain's Military Emergency Unit (UME), shows firefighters battling a wildfire near Caminomorisco in the Extremadura region of western Spain. PHOTO: AFP

TRIAL OF ALLY BOLSONARO Trump punishes Brazil with tariffs, sanctions

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump ordered massive tariffs on Brazil Wednesday and sanctions against the judge overseeing a trial of his far-right ally Jair Bolsonaro, who is accused of attempting a coup in Latin America's biggest economy.

The announcement of 50 percent tariffs saw Trump make good on his threat to wield US economic might to punish Brazil -- and its Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, in particular -- for what he has termed a "witch hunt" against former president Bolsonaro.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva hit back at the move,

saying he would defend "the sovereignty of the Brazilian people in the face of measures announced by the president of the United States."

Unlike other tariffs Trump is slapping on economies around the world, the measures against Brazil have been framed in openly political terms, sweeping aside centuries-old trade ties and a surplus that Brasilia put at \$284 million last year.

The moves dramatically increased the pressure on Moraes, who has emerged as a powerful and polarizing thorn in the far-right's side, after clashing repeatedly with Bolsonaro and others over disinformation.

Trump's executive order added a 40 percent tariff on Brazilian products,

bringing total trade duties to 50 percent, the White House announced.

The order said the new duties would not come into effect for seven days, and listed exemptions on some of Brazil's major exports -- including planes, orange juice and pulp, Brazil nuts, and some iron, steel and aluminum products.

The Brazilian government's "politically motivated persecution, intimidation, harassment, censorship, and prosecution of (Bolsonaro) and thousands of his supporters are serious human rights abuses that have undermined the rule of law in Brazil," the White House said in a fact sheet announcing the tariffs.

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে জাতীয় দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (এনএসডিএ) পর্যায়ক্রমিক ১২ (বারো) ক্যাটাগোরিতে (দক্ষতা প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিল্প দক্ষতা পরিষদ, শিল্প সমিতি, এনজিও, গবেষক প্রভৃতি) অর্থ বিভাগের আওতাধীন জাতীয় মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন তহবিল (এনএইচআরডিএফ) হতে আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদানের নিমিত্ত সুপারিশ করবে।

২। এ লক্ষ্যে এনএসডিএ কর্তৃক নিবন্ধিত ও বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যোগ্যতা কাঠামো (বিএনকিউএফ) অনুযায়ী সরকারি-বেসরকারি দক্ষতা প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠান (এসটিপি) হতে ১-৬ লেভেলভিত্তিক দক্ষতা প্রশিক্ষণ পরিচালনায় আর্থিক সহায়তার জন্য অনলাইনে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

৩। আর্থিক সহায়তা পেতে আগ্রহী দক্ষতা প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে এনএসডিএ-এর অনুমোদনপ্রাপ্ত অকুপেশনে ১২ (বারো) মাস সময়ে বাস্তবায়নযোগ্য প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচির জন্য আর্থিক সুবিধা প্রাপ্তির লক্ষ্যে ন্যাশনাল স্কিলস পোর্টালে (<https://www.skillsportal.gov.bd/#/>) আবেদন করতে হবে।

৪। এনএসডিএ কর্তৃক আবেদন গ্রহণ ও যাচাইবাস্হাই শেষে সুপারিশসহ আর্থিক সহায়তার প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্নের জন্য জাতীয় মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন তহবিল (এনএইচআরডিএফ) কোম্পানি বরাবর প্রেরণ করা হবে।

৫। আগামী ৩০ আগস্ট ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে।

৬। আবেদন-সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি ও শর্তাবলি এনএসডিএ-এর ওয়েবসাইটে (www.nsda.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

৭। জাতীয় দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ এ-সংক্রান্ত সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/যাচাই/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

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