

SECURITY TRIAL

Hong Kong court finds tycoon Jimmy Lai guilty

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's High Court yesterday found tycoon and pro-democracy campaigner Jimmy Lai guilty of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces in the city's highest-profile trial under a China-imposed national security law that could see him jailed for life.

The landmark case has drawn international scrutiny of Hong Kong's judicial independence amid a years-long crackdown on rights and freedoms in the global financial hub after 2019 pro-democracy protests that Beijing saw as a challenge to its rule.

While 78-year-old Lai's supporters see him as a freedom fighter, Beijing sees him as a mastermind of the protests and a conspirator advocating for US sanctions against Hong Kong and the mainland. Chinese authorities have rejected accusations of eroding the city's rule of law.

"There is no doubt" that Lai "had harboured his resentment and hatred of" China for many of his adult years, Judge Esther Toh told a packed courtroom as the tycoon, wearing a pale green jumper and a grey jacket, sat with his arms folded.



Palestinian women react as a man collapses at the entrance to the Nur Shams refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied northern West Bank yesterday, after residents were expelled earlier this year during an ongoing Israeli military operation.

PHOTO: AFP

Chile elects Kast as president in rightward shift

Crime concerns defined campaign

REUTERS, Santiago

Jose Antonio Kast won Chile's presidential election on Sunday, leveraging voter fears over rising crime and migration to steer the country in its sharpest rightward shift since the end of the military dictatorship in 1990.

Kast secured a commanding 58 percent of the vote in a runoff with the government-backed leftist candidate Jeannette Jara, who won 42 percent and swiftly conceded.

Throughout his decades-long political career, Kast has been a consistent right-wing hardliner. He has proposed building border walls, deploying the military to high-crime areas, and deporting all migrants who are in the country illegally.

In a victory speech to a raucous crowd who waved Chilean flags at the headquarters of his Republican Party in the upscale neighborhood of Las Condes in Santiago on Sunday evening, Kast pledged "real change."

"Without security, there is no peace. Without peace, there is no democracy, and without democracy there is no freedom, and Chile will return to be free of crime, anxiety and fear," he said.



Thai-Cambodia border conflict deepens

Death toll rises to 38; Thailand cuts Laos fuel route

AGENCIES

Thailand's military said yesterday that it has stopped fuel shipments passing through a border checkpoint with Laos because of fears they were being diverted to Cambodia, with which it is fighting a fierce border conflict.

The Thai and Cambodian militaries are clashing at multiple locations along their 817 km land border, both sides said, with no signs of the fighting abating despite international efforts to negotiate a ceasefire, including calls by US President Donald Trump.

A special meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers - where top diplomats from both sides could have met - that was scheduled to take place tomorrow had been pushed back to December 22 at Thailand's request, the Malaysian foreign ministry said.

Over half a million people have been displaced by the fighting, which has killed at least 38 on both sides over the past eight days, according to national authorities, who mounted a round of evacuations in July when the neighbours clashed for five days before Trump helped broker a truce, reports Reuters.

Thailand's military has restricted the movement of all fuel supplies through the Chong Mek border crossing into Laos after receiving intelligence that these were being routed to Cambodian troops, said Thai defence ministry spokesperson Rear Admiral Surasant Kongsiri.

The Laotian Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Cambodia accused Thailand of striking deep inside its territory, bombing areas less than a two-hour drive from the country's main tourist draw, the centuries-old Angkor temples, in a reignited border conflict, reports AFP.

The Thai military is also considering limiting the movement of its vessels into "high-risk areas" in Cambodian waters.



WEST BANK CAMP

Israeli army to demolish 25 buildings

AFP, Tulkarem

The Israeli army is to demolish 25 residential buildings in the north West Bank's Nur Shams refugee camp later this week, local authorities told AFP yesterday.

Abdallah Kamil, governor of the Tulkarem governorate where Nur Shams is located, told AFP he was informed of the planned demolition by the Israeli defence ministry body COGAT.



COGAT, which is in charge of coordinating civilian affairs in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, did not respond to AFP's requests for comment.


Faisal Salama, head of the popular committee for Tulkarem camp, which is near Nur Shams, said the demolition order would affect 25 buildings holding up to 100 family homes.

"We were informed by the military and civil coordination that the occupation will carry out the demolition of 25 buildings on December 18, Thursday," he told AFP.

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli military said it was "looking into it". Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967. In early 2025, Israel's military launched a wide-ranging and still ongoing operation it says is aimed at rooting out Palestinian armed groups from refugee camps in northern West Bank.

IN PRECIOUS MEMORY

Surely we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return



Jahanara Amir

16-12-1944 to 10-12-2025

You left behind loving memories to cherish
May you rest in peace in Jannah until we meet again.
-- Ameen --

Beloved wife of Barrister M Amir-UI Islam
Devoted Mother of Barrister Tania Amir,
Adil Islam and Zaid Islam
Mother In Law of Aliza Adil Islam and Shahid Doha,
Grandmother of Nader, Emaad, Arash,
Samar, Aiman, Arshan and Aaran



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প্রবাস ক্ষিম

বিদেশে কর্মরত বা অবস্থানরত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক মাসিক জমার অর্থ বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায় বা বাংলাদেশে তিনি যে ব্যাংক একাউন্টে রেমিটেন্স প্রেরণ করেন, সে একাউন্ট হতে জমা প্রদান করে এ ক্ষিমে অংশ নিতে পারবেন। মাসিক পেনশন জমা সর্বনিম্ন ১,০০০ টাকা এবং সর্বোচ্চ ১০,০০০ টাকা।

প্রগতি ক্ষিম

বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিক ও কর্মচারীদের জন্য এ ক্ষিম। প্রাতিষ্ঠানিকভাবে অথবা নিজ উদ্যোগে এককভাবে এ ক্ষিমে যুক্ত হওয়া যাবে। মাসিক পেনশন জমা সর্বনিম্ন ১,০০০ টাকা এবং সর্বোচ্চ ১৫,০০০ টাকা।

সুরক্ষা ক্ষিম

স্বকর্মে নিয়োজিত ব্যক্তিদের জন্য এ ক্ষিম। কৃষক, রিকশাচালক, শ্রমিক, কামার, কুমার, জেলে, তাঁতি, দোকানদার, ব্যবসায়ী, গৃহিণীসহ অনানুষ্ঠানিক খাতে নিয়োজিত ব্যক্তিগণ এ ক্ষিমে যুক্ত হতে পারবেন। মাসিক পেনশন জমা সর্বনিম্ন ১,০০০ টাকা এবং সর্বোচ্চ ১৫,০০০ টাকা।

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হটলাইন: ৯৮৮ ০৯৬১০ ৯০০৮০০
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