

GRAFT CASE
Court hands
Imran 17-year
jail term

REUTERS, Lahore

A Pakistani court yesterday sentenced former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to 17 years in prison each in a corruption case involving the under-priced purchase of luxury state gifts.

The latest conviction adds to a series of legal troubles for Khan, who has been behind bars since August 2023, and is currently serving a 14 year sentence in a separate land graft case.

He faces dozens of cases filed since he was ousted from office in 2022, ranging from corruption to anti-terrorism and state secrets charges. Khan has denied wrongdoing in all the cases, which his party says are politically motivated.

"The court announced the sentence without hearing the defence," Khan's lawyer told Reuters.

Khan's jail term from yesterday's ruling would begin after he has served the 14 years from the land graft case.

The case relates to luxury watches gifted to Khan by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during official visits, which prosecutors said Khan and his wife then purchased from the state at a heavily discounted price in violation of Pakistan's gift rules.

Tarrar said the purchase resulted in losses of several million rupees for the state.



A Palestinian man carries the body of his five-month-old brother, who was reportedly killed the previous day along with other family members in Israeli shelling of a school-turned-shelter in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, ahead of his funeral yesterday. Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli shelling on a school-turned-shelter killed five people on Friday, while the military said it had fired at "suspicious individuals". PHOTO: AFP

FRAGILE GAZA CEASEFIRE Hamas disarmament critical to reach next phase: Rubio

AFP, Miami

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has urged the disarmament of Hamas but voiced hope for headway on reaching the next stage of a Gaza ceasefire as regional officials met.

Top officials of Qatar and Egypt -- key mediators of the ceasefire -- and regional power Turkey headed Friday to Miami to meet US envoys to discuss how to proceed.

Rubio acknowledged difficulties in achieving peace in Gaza, saying that the ceasefire that went into effect in October with the release of hostages amounted to a "miracle."

During the second stage, Israel

is supposed to withdraw from its positions in Gaza, an interim authority is to govern the Palestinian territory instead of Hamas, and an international stabilisation force is to be deployed.

Rubio warned that the process would unravel without disarming Hamas.

"If Hamas is ever in a position in the future that they can threaten or attack Israel, you're not going to have peace," Rubio told journalists, adding: "That's why disarmament is so critical."

Hamas's Gaza chief Khalil al-Haya said Sunday the militant group had a "legitimate right" to

hold weapons. Israel has repeatedly insisted that Hamas will be disarmed.

Rubio was also hopeful that countries would send troops as part of the force in Gaza.

In response to a question, he pointed to Pakistan, which does not recognise Israel but is considering a troop deployment as it seeks to woo Trump.

Rubio thanked Pakistan and said talks with other countries and Israel are ongoing.

Indonesia has offered in September to contribute 20,000 peacekeepers to protect Gaza.

US Epstein files release highlights Clinton, makes scant reference to Trump

REUTERS, Washington

The US Justice Department released thousands of heavily redacted documents related to the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein on Friday that made scant reference to President Donald Trump but extensively featured Democratic former President Bill Clinton.

The absence of references to Trump was notable given that pictures and documents related to him have trickled out of previous Epstein releases for years. Trump's name appeared in flight manifests listing passengers on Epstein's private plane that were part of a first batch of Epstein material the Justice Department released in February, for instance.

The partial release was intended to comply with a law overwhelmingly passed by Congress in November that mandated the disclosure of all Epstein files. The scandal surrounding Epstein has become a self-inflicted political wound for Trump, who for years had promoted conspiracy theories about Epstein to his supporters.

7-yr-old killed as BNP leader's house locked, set on fire

FROM PAGE 1

Sadar Hospital, while the two girls were transferred to Dhaka for advanced care.

Belal's wife, Nazma, and two sons, four-month-old Abir and six-year-old Habib, managed to escape without major injuries.

Hazera Begum, Belal's mother, told reporters that unidentified criminals had locked the doors from the outside and set the house on fire.

"I couldn't enter. Eventually, my son managed to break the door and escape. His wife, Nazma, also managed to get out with their four-month-old infant, Abir, and six-year-old son, Habib," said Hazera.

"My granddaughters were sleeping inside. Two were rescued with burns, but the youngest, Ayesha, could not be saved," she lamented.

Neighbours rushed to the scene after hearing screams and helped contain the blaze before firefighters arrived.

Jesmin Akter, a relative, said the fire service later recovered Ayesha's body and rescued the injured.

Ranjit Kumar Das, station officer of Lakshmipur Fire Service, confirmed one child's death and said two of the

injured were in critical condition.

Ayesha's funeral was held yesterday afternoon, after which she was buried in the family graveyard.

Hasibur Rahman, joint convener of Lakshmipur District BNP, condemned the arson attack and demanded a thorough investigation.

Belal's brother, Md Shahin, said his brother had no personal enmity with anyone.

He described the attack as an act of sabotage and demanded that those responsible be identified and brought to justice.

Dr Arup Pal, residential medical officer at Lakshmipur Sadar Hospital, said Belal and his daughters were admitted around 2:00am. "The girls sustained burns over 50-60 percent of their bodies and were referred to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka."

Quoting doctors at the burn institute, Shahin said Smriti had suffered burns over 90 percent of her body and was placed in the Intensive Care Unit.

Police are investigating the incident and identifying those responsible, said OC Wahid Parvez, after visiting the spot yesterday morning.

7 elephants killed in India train accident

REUTERS, Guwahati

Seven elephants were killed and one injured when a Delhi-bound train collided with a herd in northeast India early yesterday, district police chief VV Rakesh Reddy said.

The incident in the Hojai district of Assam occurred at a location that is not a designated elephant corridor, the railway said in a statement.

The locomotive pilot applied the emergency brakes upon seeing the herd, but the elephants rushed toward the train, the company said.

The collision at 2:17am caused the locomotive and five coaches of the train to derail, but no people were injured, the statement said.

"Trains scheduled to pass through that section are being diverted through another line," it said.

Trump doesn't rule out Venezuela war

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump left open the possibility of war with Venezuela, as his top diplomat Marco Rubio vowed Friday to enforce a blockade on the country's oil wealth.

Asked in an interview with NBC News conducted Thursday about a war with Venezuela, Trump said, "I don't rule it out, no."

Trump declined to say whether he wants to oust President Nicolas Maduro, after saying in an earlier interview that the leftist firebrand's "days are numbered."

"He knows exactly what I want," Trump replied. "He knows better than anybody."

Rubio declined to answer explicitly if the US was aiming to overthrow Maduro, but he promised to press on.

"It is clear that the current status quo with the Venezuelan regime is intolerable for the United States," Rubio said.

"So yes, our goal is to change that dynamic, and that's why the president is doing what he's doing," he said of Trump.

Trump earlier this week declared that Venezuela is "completely surrounded by the largest Armada ever assembled in the History of South America."

Venezuela, which has the world's largest proven oil reserves, has promised security to keep its ships sailing. The oil is critical to Venezuela's budget and offers a key lifeline for Cuba.

UGC HEAT Sub-Project 13733
Bangladesh Biorefinery & Biorude Innovation Center (3BIC):
A Whole-Fuel Approach for Transforming Bangladesh's Energy Future
Department of Civil Engineering
Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET)
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online tender notice publication date	Online tender closing date
01	1192552, KUET/13733/Y I/G2/2025 Date:17/12/2025	Goods (Dev.), Elemental/CHNS Analyzer; High - Temperature Muffle Furnace / Oven/Autoclave Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Supply of Elemental/CHNS Analyzer; High - Temperature Muffle Furnace / Oven/Autoclave Open Tendering Method (OTM)	17 December, 2025	01 January, 2026
02	1192553, KUET/13733/Y I/G3/2025 Date:17/12/2025	Goods (Dev.), Fuel Analyzer Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Supply of Fuel Analyzer	17 December, 2025	01 January, 2026

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no online/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-218

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Pirojpur

E-mail: pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com

Date: 18/12/2025

Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method, NCT)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal for the following works:

Tender ID & Package No.	1195146, 04/e-GP/PRHD/PMP-Major/Bridge/2025-2026
Name of tender	Construction of 37.920m (1x36.58) Long P.C Girder "Kochuakati Bridge" at 43rd Km (Ch: 42+103m) of Goriarpur-Banaripara-Sharsinda-Swarupkathi-Kawkhali-Naikathi (Z-8033) Road under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026.
Tender last selling date and time	14-January-2026 & Time 16:00
Tender closing & opening date and time	15-January-2026 & Time 12:00
Tender/proposal document price (in BDT)	5,000.00 (Five Thousand only)
Tender/proposal security (amount in BDT)	33,00,000.00 (Thirty-Three lakh only)

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Tanvir Ahmed

ID No. 602308

Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Pirojpur

GD-2782

Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after opening time.

Sheikh Nabil Hossain
ID-602255
Executive Engineer (A.C.), RHD
Road Division, Gopalganj

GD-2786