

NEWS IN BRIEF

Evacuation starts as cyclone nears India's west coast

India is preparing to evacuate thousands of people from low-lying areas along its western coast as a powerful cyclone is expected to make landfall on Tuesday morning in the state of Gujarat. "It is very likely to intensify further during the 24 hours, and move north-northwestwards and reach Gujarat coast in the evening of 17th (May)," the India Meteorological Department said in a statement. Cyclone Tauktae, which formed in the Arabian sea, is expected to cross Gujarat with wind gusts of up to 175 kmph and is expected to make landfall in the state the following morning. The meteorological agency also warned that there could be destruction of houses and flooding of escape routes. Disruption to railway services was also expected until May 21.

Myanmar anti-coup fighters retreat from town in Chin state

Fighters of a local militia opposed to Myanmar's junta have pulled back from the northwestern town of Mindat after days of assault by combat troops backed by artillery, a member of the group said yesterday. The United States and Britain called on the army to avoid civilian casualties and a shadow National Unity Government formed by loyalists of Myanmar's detained elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, appealed for international help. The fighting in the hill town of Mindat, about 100 km (60 miles) from the Indian border in Chin state, is some of the heaviest since the coup plunged Myanmar into chaos with daily protests, strikes and the emergence of new local militias. The US-funded RFA website quoted a member of the group as saying five of its fighters were killed, but it believed it had inflicted losses several times that many on the army, widely known as the Tatmadaw. The fighting marks the emergence of the Chinland Defence Force, one of several new groups to spring up in opposition to the junta in a country which already had about two dozen ethnic armed groups. The fighters also say they are part of the People's Defence Forces of the shadow government.

Chileans vote for body to rewrite constitution



Chileans head to the polls yesterday in a second day of voting to elect 155 people who will rewrite the country's dictatorship-era constitution in a bid to address deep-seated social inequality that gave rise to deadly protests in 2019. Some 14 million people are eligible to vote this weekend in what many consider to be Chile's most important election since its return to democracy 31 years ago. More than three million people, or approximately 20.4 percent of the electorate, cast their ballot Saturday, according to the country's Electoral Service. Chile's constitution dates from 1980, enacted at the height of dictator Augusto Pinochet's 1973-1990 rule, and is widely blamed for blocking equitable progress in a country ranked as one of the most unequal among advanced economies.

West Bengal orders lockdown after 'super-spreader' election

An Indian state stricken by coronavirus after mass rallies were held for a key election ordered a two-week lockdown on Saturday in a bid to halt the spread. All offices, stores and public transport in West Bengal were told to close for 15 days after the region reported its biggest spike yet in deaths and infections. West Bengal along with a host of southern states are bearing the brunt of a Covid-19 surge in India that has taken the nation's infection total to nearly 25 million with more than 265,000 deaths. The strain of the virus responsible has been declared a variant of "global concern" by the World Health Organization.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A father, who himself is wounded, mourns his dead child at the site of Israeli air strikes, in Gaza City yesterday. Israeli air strikes killed 40 Palestinians, including at least eight children, in Gaza early yesterday, Gaza health officials said as the new round of violence on the enclosed Palestinian enclave, often termed as the largest open prison in the world, entered 7th day.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bloodbath for political gains?

Violence gives Netanyahu a political lifeline as Hamas eyes to sideline Abbas

AFP, Jerusalem

It took just days for decades-old tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas to spiral out of control, causing deaths and chaos not just in Gaza but across the Jewish state.

As the escalating violence ignites riots in mixed Jewish-Arab towns in Israel and spurs wide unrest in the West Bank, what do both sides want to achieve in the worst flare-up of violence since 2014?

Hamas, rulers of the impoverished and blockaded Gaza Strip, the crowded home to some two million Palestinians often compared with an open prison, aims to become the de facto standard bearer of the Palestinian cause, capitalising on the fading leadership of the Palestinian Authority, based in the West Bank.

Israel meanwhile has seized the moment to try to wipe out once and for all Hamas's sway in the territory by attacking its very infrastructure, analysts say, causing nearly 200 deaths including at least 52 children.

The explosion of unrest has centred around Palestinian anger at Israel's occupation and annexation of east Jerusalem since 1967, amid a threat to evict four Palestinian families from their homes to give them to Jewish settlers.

More than 900 Palestinians were injured in weekend fury which erupted towards the end of the holy month of Ramadan, around the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the holiest site in Islam after Makkah and Medina.

Amid the chaos, Hamas set an unrealistic ultimatum for all Israeli police to withdraw from the compound by 6:00 pm Monday evening.

Inevitably, the deadline was not met,

and Hamas swiftly unleashed a volley of rockets into Israel drawing an almost immediate response and a relentless Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

It is a "new strategy and tactic" by Hamas to seek to link "the issue of Jerusalem with the resistance in Gaza," said Jamal Al-Fadi, professor of political science in Gaza.

Political researcher Leila Seurat, from the Brussels-based Observatory of the Arab and Muslim Worlds, agreed, saying Hamas was "clearly seeking to undermine" Palestinian



elections in the past two years. Swiftly accusing Hamas of crossing "a red line", he ordered in the military for what has been dubbed Operation Guardian of the Walls and, this time, the Israeli army did not just reply with a few missiles.

Since Monday the military has pounded Gaza, and massed troops on the territory's border with Israel, threatening a ground invasion. And the protection from the hail of Hamas rockets offered by Israel's Iron Dome system, which has been intercepting most of the missiles, is buying time for the Israeli military to pursue its goal.

"When the Palestinians get out of their shelters, they will find that many of the symbols of Hamas's control of the Gaza Strip will have been destroyed, from banks to the intelligence centre," said Netanyahu's former national security adviser Yaakov Amidror.

"Everything that is symbolising Hamas as the government of the Gaza Strip" will be gone, he told AFP, as Israel seeks "to destroy their military capability and infrastructure, this is the name of game".

There is also clearly an "effort to kill as many Hamas members as possible and mainly commanders in the whole area of technical expertise who are leading the production system".

Israel is seeking to weaken Hamas and drive an even deeper wedge between the fractious Palestinian factions, said Gaza University political scientist, Naji Shurab.

But he warned "this is the most dangerous scenario" as it could cause the uprising to spread to the West Bank and "this will end the Palestinian Authority," deepening the uncertainty and helplessness of a new generation of Palestinians.



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators attend a protest following a flare-up of Israeli-Palestinian violence, in London, Britain, on Saturday. Protesters marched around the world in support of Palestinians amid the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence since the 2014 Gaza war.

PHOTO: REUTERS

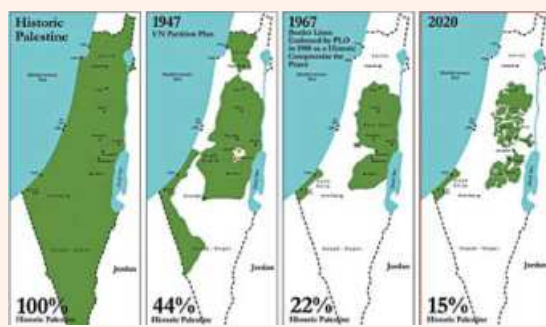
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

A brief history since 1947

With fears growing of a "full-scale war" between Israel and the Palestinians, here is a look at the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The two territories plus Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem were long touted as basis of a Palestinian state in a "two-state" solution to the long-running conflict. But that goal has become ever more distant, with the West Bank fragmented by Jewish settlements and several states recognising Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided" capital.

THE OCCUPATION: In 1947 the United Nations voted to partition British-ruled Palestine into two states -- one Arab and one Jewish. It made Jerusalem, sacred to the three Abrahamic religions and claimed by both sides as their capital, an international zone. Almost immediately, fighting broke out that would eventually see more than half the Palestinian population -- 760,000 people -- fleeing or being expelled from what was to become Israel. As the British mandate ended in 1948, Israel declared statehood. The next day its Arab neighbours declared war. The conflict ended with Israel controlling 78 percent of mandate Palestine. In the so-called Six-Day War of 1967, Israel occupied both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It also occupied and later annexed east Jerusalem, which contains many of the sites holiest to Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

WEST BANK: By far the larger of the two Palestinian territories, the West Bank covers 5,655 square kilometres and is sandwiched between Israel and Jordan. It has been occupied by the Israeli army for the past five decades. The Palestinian Authority, headed by Mahmud Abbas, has limited powers over just 40 percent of the territory, mainly urban centres. Israel, which controls all the entry



points, administers 60 percent of the territory including its Jewish settlements, as well as its vital water resources. Israel has also erected a security barrier partly following its armistice line with the West Bank but also cutting deep into the territory. About 400,000 Israelis live in the West Bank, alongside 2.7 million Palestinians.

EAST JERUSALEM: The status of Jerusalem is possibly the most sensitive issue of the whole conflict. After capturing it in 1967, Israel annexed east Jerusalem, including the Old City, in a move never recognised by the international community. Israel views the whole city as its capital. Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of their own future state. The Old City, a UNESCO World Heritage site, includes the golden Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosque compound, Islam's third holiest site. This lies directly above the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews are allowed to pray, a short walk from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Christians believe Jesus was crucified and buried. More than 200,000 Israelis live in east Jerusalem, alongside around 300,000 Palestinians.

GAZA STRIP: This strip of territory bordering Israel sits on the Mediterranean Sea, and also shares a border with Egypt. It is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with some two million people squeezed into a strip just 41 kilometres long and at one point less than six kilometres across. After occupying Gaza for 38 years, Israel unilaterally withdrew in 2005, but soon afterwards imposed a stifling land, air and sea blockade. Islamist movement Hamas, which won Palestinian elections in 2006, seized the territory from the Palestinian Authority the following year. Israel has carried out three full-scale military offensives against Gaza since 2008. More than two thirds of the population depends on humanitarian aid.

SOURCE: AFP

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Database Division Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka E-mail: eehdm@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 506

Date: 11/05/2021

e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)

Tender/Proposal ID No. & Package No.	Name of the work	Tender document last selling/downloading date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
578584 01/Database/2020-21/Re-Tender	Supply of HDM-4 Version 2 Software including HDM Sentry for HDM analysis under Database Division during the year 2020-2021.	27/05/2021 12:00	27/05/2021 15:30	27/05/2021 15:30

The above e-Tender is published in the National e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>. All information and guidelines are available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Signature)

Amir Hossain

ID-602205

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

BCS Administration Academy Shahbag, Dhaka-1000 <http://www.bcsadminacademy.gov.bd>

Memo No. 05.02.0000.010.14.032.17-114

Date: 17/05/2021

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide experienced importers/suppliers/ distributors to supply Computer Software/Instruments as per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008. Terms and conditions as follows:

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Public Administration.
2	Agency	BCS Administration Academy.
3	Procuring entity name	Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation Ref No. & date	05.02.0000.010.14.032.17-114, dated: 17/05/2021
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (As per PPR 2008).
7	Source of funds	Project budget for FY 2020-21.
8	Tender package No.	GD-10
9	Tender package name	Computer Software.
10	Tender publication date	17/05/2021
11	Tender last selling date	31/05/2021
12	Tender closing date and time	12:00pm, 01/06/2021
13	Tender opening date and time	02:00pm, 01/06/2021
14	Name & address of the office(s)	Project Director, Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project, BCS Administration Academy, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
15	Brief eligibility and qualification of bidders	All bidders/firms who fulfills the requirements as described in the tender schedule (Except blacklisted bidders/ firms).
16	Brief description of goods	As described in the Section-6 of the tender schedule/document.
17	Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 500/-
18	Tender security	BDT 15,000/-, should be payable in favour of Md. Nazrul Islam, Project Director, Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project via Pay Order.
19	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Md. Nazrul Islam, Project Director, Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project, BCS Administration Academy, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
20	Contact details of official inviting tender	Md. Nazrul Islam, Director (Planning & Development), Phone: +88 02 55165907

Note: The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings a) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively; b) Contract agreement shall be made after allocation of fund (GoB) and necessary administrative approval of the process.

Md. Nazrul Islam
Project Director
and
Director (Planning & Development)
BCS Administration Academy
Shahbag, Dhaka 1000
Telephone: +88 02 55165907
E-mail: nazrul5927@gmail.com

GD-972

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Project Director Expansion of Matuail Sanitary Landfill Including Land Development Waste Management Department Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.207.000.12.05.254(MLP).2021

Corrigendum Notice

This is to inform all concerned that Tender Notice No. Memo No. 46.207.000.12.05.251(MLP).2021, Date: 15/04/2021 the following corrigendum is as follows:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Identification of lot	Existing date & time	Amendment date & time
1.	egp-dscc-emslld-2020-21/01 & egp-dscc-emslld-2020-21/04	Tender ID No. 566153 Construction of Main Embankment for extended new landfill site. & Tender ID No. 567730 Improvement of Approach and internal roads of Matuail Sanitary Landfill Site.	Documents last selling date & time: 16/05/2021 up to 05:00pm Closing date: 17/05/2021 up to 02:00pm	23/05/2021 up to 05:00pm 24/05/2021 up to 02:00pm

All other terms & condition as laid down in that Invitation of Tender & Tender Document will be unchanged. This Corrigendum Notice with above amendment shall be part of the Tender Documents.

Dr. Md. Sufi Ullah Siddik Bhuyan
Project Director
Expansion of Matuail Sanitary Landfill Including Land Development Waste Management Department
Dhaka South City Corporation
Phone: 9586543
E-mail: peemslld@dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

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IS claims Afghan mosque blast

Fighting resumes in south as three-day Eid ceasefire ends

AFP, Kabul

The jihadist Islamic State claimed it carried out this week's attack on a mosque on the outskirts of the Afghan capital that left 12 worshippers dead, SITE Intelligence Group reported.

The explosion happened inside a mosque in Shakar Darah district of Kabul province during Friday prayers and shattered the relative calm of a three-day ceasefire agreed between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

IS said its fighters had placed an explosive device inside the mosque and detonated it after worshippers arrived to offer prayers on the second day of the Eid al-Fitr holidays, the US monitor of jihadist groups said late Saturday.

Meanwhile, fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces resumed in full force yesterday in the restive southern province of Helmand, officials said.

Violence has soared as the United States military presses ahead with a plan to withdraw all of its troops by September, bringing an end to a 20-year military operation in Afghanistan.

"The fighting started early today and is still ongoing," Attaullah Afghan, head of the Helmand provincial council, told AFP. He said Taliban fighters attacked security checkpoints on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, and some other districts.

An Afghan army spokesman in the south confirmed fighting had resumed, and the Helmand governor's office said that 21 Taliban fighters had been killed so far.

Washington has vowed to end America's longest war but missed a May 1 deadline to pull out, as agreed with the Taliban last year in return for security guarantees and a promise to launch talks with the Afghan government.