

Downpours in Brazil leave at least 34 dead

AFP, Brasilia
Torrential rains that have plagued Brazil's northeastern Pernambuco state since Tuesday have left at least 34 dead, according to the latest official update.
The most dramatic event occurred early Saturday morning when 19 people died in a major landslide in the Jardim Monteverde community, near state capital Recife.
Six others were killed in another landslide in the municipality of Camaragibe. Two died in Recife and another in Jaboatao dos Guararapes.
Six others died earlier in the week.
The heavy rains have also forced almost 1,000 people to flee their homes due to the flooding and landslides.



This file photo shows Tara Air's DHC-6 Twin Otter, tail number 9N-AET, in Simikot, Nepal. Inset, Family members and relatives of passengers on board the Twin Otter aircraft operated by Tara Air, weep outside the airport in Pokhara, Nepal, yesterday. Nepali rescuers scoured a remote area of the lower Himalayas by helicopter and on foot yesterday after the passenger plane with 22 people on board went missing.

UN RIGHTS CHIEF'S CHINA VISIT
Blinken slams Chinese 'manipulation'

AFP, Washington
The United States expressed concern on Saturday over China's 'efforts to restrict and manipulate' the UN human rights chief's visit to the Xinjiang region where Beijing is accused of detaining over a million people in indoctrination camps.
United States has labeled China's treatment of Uyghurs a 'genocide.'
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Chinese authorities would not allow Michelle Bachelet full access during her long planned trip, saying the United States was 'concerned' about China's 'efforts to restrict and manipulate her visit.'
Bachelet defended her visit earlier on Saturday while still inside China, saying it was 'not an investigation' but called on Beijing to avoid 'arbitrary and indiscriminate measures' in its crackdown in Xinjiang.
She said the trip was a chance for her to speak with 'candour' to Chinese authorities as well as civil society groups and academics.
Her visit was the first to China by a UN high commissioner for human rights in 17 years and comes after painstaking negotiations over the conditions of the visit.

ISRAELI 'FLAG MARCH'
Clashes as Jerusalem put on high alert

AFP, Jerusalem
Thousands of Israelis yesterday started the annual nationalist 'flag march' through Jerusalem that regularly stokes Palestinian anger, a year after tensions in the disputed Holy City exploded into war.
Some 2,000 police were deployed for the event that marks Israel's 1967 capture of east Jerusalem, home of the Al-Aqsa mosque compound located on what Jews revere as the Temple Mount.
Across annexed east Jerusalem, many Palestinian flags flew from rooftops ahead of the 'Jerusalem Day' march, which began at 4:00 pm (1300 GMT) in west Jerusalem, with participants heading towards the Old City.
Earlier yesterday, flag waving Jewish nationalists chanting pro-Israel slogans, among them a far-right lawmaker, visited Al-Aqsa, where Israeli police said several Palestinians threw rocks toward the officers.
Isolated clashes also broke out at the Old City's Damascus Gate where dozens of Jewish nationalists danced in front of Palestinians, one of whom raised his shoe in an Arab insult.

Police reported more than 20 arrests over 'disorderly conduct'.
The march comes a year after tensions and unrest in Jerusalem led the Islamist armed group Hamas to fire rockets at Israel from the blockaded Gaza Strip, triggering an 11-day war.
Hamas warned last week that marchers must not pass through the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, saying it would use all means to confront them.
The route of the march has never included Al-Aqsa, a site which Jewish groups are permitted to visit but where they are not allowed to pray.
Police said that some 2,600 people had ascended to the compound during Sunday's regular visitation windows -- a figure that is higher than normal and includes tourists.
Some Jews had 'violated visitation rules' and several people were detained, police said without providing further details, before the day's visits concluded.
Most of the international community does not recognise Israeli control over east Jerusalem, which Palestinians see as the capital of a future state.



PROTEST IN KABUL
Women demand education, work

AFP, Kabul
About two dozen Afghan women chanting 'bread, work, freedom' protested in the capital yesterday against the Taliban's harsh restrictions on their rights.
Since seizing power in August, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women during the two decades of US intervention in Afghanistan.
'Education is my right! Reopen schools!' chanted the protesters, many of them wearing face covering veils, as they gathered in front of the ministry of education.
Demonstrators marched for a few hundred metres before ending the rally as authorities deployed Taliban fighters in plain clothes, an AFP correspondent reported.
Tens of thousands of girls have been shut out of secondary schools, while women have been barred from returning to many government jobs. Women have also been banned from travelling alone.
This month, the country's supreme leader and Taliban chief Hibatullah Akhundzada said women should generally stay at home. They were ordered to conceal themselves completely, including their faces, should they need to go out.
The Taliban have also banned protests calling for women's rights and dismissed calls by the United Nations to reverse their restrictions.

Pacific response 'very positive'
Says Aussie PM as China, West vie for influence

AFP, Sydney
Australia's newly elected prime minister has said Pacific leaders have been 'very positive' about his government's renewed engagement, even as Beijing continues its diplomatic blitz across the increasingly contested region.
The comments from Anthony Albanese -- aired yesterday in an interview with Sky News -- came as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Fiji for closely watched meetings with the island nation's leaders and other Pacific foreign ministers.
Wang, who began his South Pacific tour Thursday in Solomon Islands, is expected to discuss with his fellow foreign ministers a wide-ranging draft agreement and five-year plan, which was leaked last week.
The leaked drafts, obtained by AFP, were circulated to at least 10 Pacific nations ahead of the Fiji meeting, sparking concern about Beijing's ambitions to dramatically expand security and economic cooperation within the South Pacific.
Albanese was scathing in his assessment of the former Australian government's Pacific plan, saying it had 'dropped the ball' in the region -- blaming both foreign aid cuts and 'a non-engagement on values'.
'For our Pacific Island neighbours, the issue of climate change is an absolute national security issue,' he said.
In addition to increased action on the environment, Albanese touted a boost in aid and a plan to set up a defence training school in the Pacific.



STAMPEDE AT NIGERIA CHURCH
More than 30 die

AFP, Abuja
More than 30 people were killed in southern Nigeria yesterday after a stampede erupted during a crowded church charity event where food was being distributed. Shoes and slippers lay scattered on the ground after the disaster in Port Harcourt city in southern Rivers State when people tried to force their way into the event, police and witnesses said.
A local Kings Assembly church organisation was offering food and gifts for the impoverished at the Port Harcourt Polo Club when a 'mammoth' crowd got out of control, Rivers State police said. Witnesses described frantic pushing and trampling as people trying to get into the entrance were forced back. Police said a criminal investigation was underway. Nigeria has seen several stampede tragedies over food distribution in recent years, including an aid agency food programme in north Borno State where seven women were trampled to death last year.

In this war, the occupiers are trying to squeeze out at least some result. But they should have understood long ago that we will defend our land to the last man. They have no chance. We will fight and we will definitely win.
Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky



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e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works:
Table with 4 columns: e-Tender ID No., Name of the work, Last date and time for tender security submission, Tender/proposal closing date and time.
This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP 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-1096

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
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