

## Strong quakes kill five in southern Iran

AFP, Tehran

A series of strong earthquakes rocked southern Iran yesterday, killing at least five people, injuring over 80 others and flattening dozens of buildings.

The quakes, including two of magnitude 6.0, struck west of the major port city of Bandar Abbas in Hormozgan province, the US Geological Survey said.

The first rattled an area north of the town of Dezhgan shortly after 2:00 am (2130 GMT), before a 5.7 tremor hit two hours later followed quickly by the second 6.0 magnitude quake, said the USGS.

Hormozgan governor Mehdi Dousti said five people were killed, as cited by the official news agency IRNA.

Ambulances and other vehicles tried to navigate roads covered in debris as shocked residents took to the streets or tried to recover items from their flattened homes.

People also spent the night outdoors in the provincial capital Bandar Abbas, with a population of more than 500,000, located about 100 kilometres east of the epicentre, where long queues formed in front of gas stations, state media reported.

Iran sits astride the boundaries of several major tectonic plates and experiences frequent seismic activity.

The Islamic republic's deadliest quake was a 7.4-magnitude tremor in 1990 that killed 40,000 people in the north, injured 300,000 and left half a million homeless.



Protesters set fire to the Libyan parliament building in Tobruk, Libya, on Friday. Protesters stormed the parliament and set parts of it ablaze, venting their anger at deteriorating living conditions and months of political deadlock.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## World must do more to protect oceans

UN Ocean Conference concludes with the hope of a deal in August

AFP, Lisbon

World leaders must do more to protect the oceans, a major United Nations conference concluded on Friday, setting its sights on a new treaty to protect the high seas.

"Greater ambition is required at all levels to address the dire state of the ocean," the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon said in its final declaration.

The meeting in the Portuguese capital -- attended by government officials, experts and advocates from 140 countries -- is not a negotiating forum.

But it sets the agenda for final international negotiations in August on a treaty to protect the high seas -- those international waters beyond national jurisdiction.

"Biodiversity loss, the decline of the ocean's health, the way the climate crisis is going... it all has one common reason, which is... human behaviour, our addiction to oil and gas, and all of them have to be addressed," Peter Thomson, the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, told AFP.

Oceans produce half the oxygen we breathe, regulate the weather and provide humanity's single largest source of protein.

They also absorb a quarter of CO2 pollution and 90 percent of excess heat from global warming, thus playing a key role in protecting life on Earth.

But they are being pushed to the brink by human activities.

Sea water has turned acidic, threatening aquatic food chains and the ocean's capacity to absorb carbon. Global warming has spawned massive marine heatwaves that are killing off coral reefs and expanding dead zones bereft of oxygen.

Humans have fished some marine species to the edge of extinction and used the world's waters as a rubbish dump.

Efforts to protect the oceans will be discussed at two key summits later this year -- UN climate talks in November and UN biodiversity negotiations in December.

At the heart of the draft UN biodiversity treaty is a plan to designate 30 percent of Earth's land and oceans as protected zones by 2030. Currently, under 8pc of oceans are protected.

A number of new, protected marine areas could be declared off-limits to fishing, mining, drilling or other extractive activities which scientists say disrupt fragile seabed ecosystems.

## MURDER OF HINDU TAILOR Indian cops arrest 'masterminds'

REUTERS, Udaipur/Mumbai

Indian police made fresh arrests yesterday in the murder of a Hindu tailor in Rajasthan, which had sparked tensions between the Hindu majority and Muslim minority and a clampdown on protests and the internet to prevent them from escalating. Two Muslim men already under arrest for the murder, who filmed the act and posted it online, said it had been a response to the victim's support for a politician's derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). The victim, Kanhaiya Lal Teli, had allegedly made a social media post supporting a former spokesperson for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party who made anti-Islam comments in May. Three senior police officials yesterday said that two more men based in the northwestern state were being held for planning Teli's murder last week in his shop in Udaipur, a popular tourist destination dotted with lakes and palace hotels. Judges from the Supreme Court of India stated on Friday that the ex-spokesperson, Nupur Sharma, must apologise to the whole nation after her remarks intensified religious fault lines in India, angered Islamic nations and triggered diplomatic strains.

## Brazil sets new Amazon deforestation record

AFP, Sao Paulo

Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon reached a record level during the first half of 2022, the INPE national space agency said Friday. The world's largest tropical rainforest lost 3,750 square kilometers (1,450 square miles) of jungle since the beginning of the year, the worst numbers for that period since record-keeping began in 2016. The previous worst figure of 3,605 square kilometers was set last year. INPE satellites identified more

than 2,500 fires in the Amazon last month, the largest number since more than 3,500 were recorded in June 2007, and an 11 percent increase over June 2021. More than 7,500 fires have been recorded since the start of the year, another 17 percent increase on 2021 and the worst numbers since 2010.



# NEWS

## Potato prices jump

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As the price wasn't satisfactory, he kept 180 sacks of potatoes in cold storage and the rest at his own storage.

However, almost half the potatoes in his storage rotted due to tuber worms, he said, adding that he had taken measures in this regard but still could not save his potatoes.

Farmers of the region said many of them faced similar losses.

While potatoes sold from the cold storage cost between Tk 18 and 20 per kg, they are being sold at Tk 35 to Tk 40 in the capital's kitchen markets.

Mozammel Hoque Choudhury, secretary of Bangladesh Cold Storage Association said they are sold at higher prices once they reach the capital due to other added expenses including transportation and packing.

At the different retail

markets in Dhaka, potatoes were being sold at Tk 30-40 per kg, while at the wholesale market, they were Tk 28-30.

According to data by the Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM) and Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, potatoes were sold at Tk 30 on June 28, 2020, at a time when the country was dealing with the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2018, the price was Tk 25.

While people were already grappling with the price escalation of daily commodities due to the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, the new hike in potato prices comes as a fresh blow.

Consumers usually experience an upper trend in the vegetable production during the monsoon. However, devastating floods in the north this year have caused much damage. Shahina Begum, a

housewife, was buying vegetables from the capital's Tejturi bazar. "All vegetables are above at least Tk 60 per kg. Only potatoes were cheaper. However, just a week ago they were Tk 25. Now, they ask for Tk 35," she said.

Jony, a shopkeeper in the capital, said as many productions of vegetables were hampered due to the floods, people are looking to buy more potatoes. "However, I bought potatoes from the wholesale market at Tk 20 per kg just a week ago. Now it is Tk 30."

Contacted, DAM's Director General A Gallar Khan said potatoes lose their weight when preserved in cold storages, therefore the price hikes are not unlikely.

"Farmers are now getting good prices. This will reduce their losses and encourage them for future cultivation."

## Afghan clerics vow loyalty to Taliban, but no word on girls' schooling

AFP, Kabul

Thousands of Afghan clerics pledged loyalty to the Taliban yesterday, but ended a three-day meeting without recommendations on how the hardline Islamist group should govern the crisis-hit country.

The men-only gathering was called to rubber-stamp the Taliban's rule, and ahead of the meeting officials said criticism would be tolerated and they could also discuss thorny issues such as secondary school education for girls.

Media were barred from the event, although speeches were broadcast on state radio -- including a rare appearance by the Taliban's reclusive supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Taliban officials presented the gathering as an opportunity for clerics to independently say how they wanted the country to be governed, but the meeting's final declaration was mostly a regurgitation of their own doctrine.

It called for allegiance to Akhundzada, loyalty to the Taliban, and the complete acceptance of sharia law as the basic principle of rule.

"By the grace of God, the Islamic system has come to rule in Afghanistan," the declaration read.

"We not only strongly support it, but will also defend it. We consider this to be the national and religious duty of the entire nation."

Since returning to power in August, the Taliban's harsh interpretation of sharia law has imposed severe restrictions on Afghans -- particularly women.

Secondary school girls have been barred from education and women dismissed from government jobs, forbidden from travelling alone, and ordered to dress in clothing that covers everything but their faces.

The Taliban have also outlawed playing non-religious music, banned human figures in advertising, ordered TV channels to stop showing movies and soaps featuring uncovered women, and told men they should dress in traditional garb and grow their beards.

The final declaration made no mention of girls' schooling, but called on the government to pay "special attention" to modern education, as well as justice and the rights of minorities "in the light of Islamic law".

It said the new government had brought security to the nation -- despite an attack on the meeting Thursday by two gunmen that was claimed by the Islamic State group, which has regularly carried out bomb blasts and ambushes since the Taliban's return.

"We call on the countries of the region and the world... to recognise the Islamic Emirate as a legitimate system," the declaration read.

## AI predicts crime a week

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environments. If you feed it data from what happened in the past, it will tell you what's going to happen in future. It's not magical, there are limitations, but we validated it and it works really well," said Professor Ishanu Chattopadhyay from the University of Chicago.

The tool is reminiscent of the crime forecasts made in the 2002 science fiction film Minority Report, which itself was based on the 1956 short story of the same by Philip K Dick.

Similar AI-based tech is already being used in Japan to inform citizen

patrol routes in some municipalities where crimes are statistically more likely to happen in certain areas at particular times.

Different variations of the technology have proved controversial, with a Crime and Victimization Risk Model implemented by the Chicago Police Department in 2012 found to be flawed due to the use of historically biased data.

These efforts also relied on a seismic approach, whereby crime is depicted as emerging in "hotspots" that spread to surrounding areas. By contrast, the Chicago-based researchers

incorporated the complex social environment of cities, as well as the relationship between crime and the effects of police enforcement.

"Spatial models ignore the natural topology of the city," said Max Palevskym a sociology professor at the University of Chicago who was involved in the research.

"Transportation networks respect streets, walkways, train and bus lines. Communication networks respect areas of similar socio-economic background. Our model enables discovery of these connections."

## Bangladesh listed among 10

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authorities, the ITUC report said.

According to the index, workers in 113 of the 148 surveyed countries have been denied the right to form or join trade unions, while 74 percent (of the 148) have blocked the registration process of unions.

In a climate of increasing levels of violence and attacks on workers, the number of countries which expose workers to physical violence increased from 45 in 2021 to 50 in 2022.

The Asia-Pacific region saw a significant rise in the number of countries where workers faced violence.

The number rose from

35 percent in 2021 to 43 percent this year.

In Europe, the number of countries where workers faced violence doubled from 12 percent in 2021 to 26 percent in 2022.

Sharan Burrow, general secretary of ITUC, said it will take a new social contract with jobs, rights, social protection, just wages, equality and inclusion, to rebuild the trust that has been shattered by repressive governments and abusive companies.

"Where there are challenges to monopoly power, or human and labour rights violations, unions are there. Without unions, there will be no

just transition in the face of climate and technological change," she said in a forward.

## Dalela

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as well as private secretary to the Prime Minister, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Doraiswami will replace Gaitri Issar Kumar, who was superannuated on June 30, 2022, as High Commissioner to the UK.

Doraiswami has been central to India's close relationship with Bangladesh, as he is credited with pushing for cementing ties through infrastructure and defence cooperation.

**বাংলাদেশ মহিলা পরিষদ**  
সুফিয়া কামাল ভবন, ১০/বি/১, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০

**'জেডার, নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন এবং উন্নয়ন' বিষয়ক সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স ২০২২**

**আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান**

কোর্সের নাম	১	'জেডার, নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন এবং উন্নয়ন' বিষয়ক সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স।
কোর্সের মেয়াদ	১	৩ (তিন) মাস।
ক্রম ও সময়	১	সপ্তাহে ২ (দুই) দিন। (৩ মাসে ২৪ দিনে মোট ৪৮টি ক্লাস। প্রতি ক্লাসে ৩০ মিনিটের শিক্ষণ এবং শনিবার বিকেন্দ্র ৩.৩০-৫.৩০ টা।
কোর্সের তারিখ	১	২৫ আগস্ট ২০২২
কোর্সের ভাষা	১	ইংরেজি ভাষায় (শ্রমসহ)
কোর্সের ফি	১	৭০০০ (সাত হাজার) টাকা
আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্তির শেষ তারিখ	১	১৭ আগস্ট ২০২২
শিক্ষণ পদ্ধতি	১	কোর্সের শিক্ষণ পদ্ধতি হবে অংশগ্রহণমূলক। প্রেক্ষিক আলোচনা, নির্দিষ্ট বিষয়ের উপর দলীয় কাজ, গ্রুপভিত্তিক উপস্থাপনা, সেমিনার, মঠকর্ম ও প্যানেল আলোচনা, ইত্যাদি আধুনিক শিক্ষণ পদ্ধতির সমন্বয়ে ক্লাস পরিচালিত হবে।
ফ্যাকাশি	১	রিসোর্স-পার্সন হিসেবে থাকবেন বিভিন্ন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক, অর্থনীতিবিদ, আইনজীবী, গবেষক ও নারী নেতৃগণ।
অতিরিক্ত তথ্য যোগাযোগ	১	সীমা মোসলেম, যুগ্ম সাধারণ সম্পাদক ও কোর্স পরিচালক, কেন্দ্রীয় কমিটি, বাংলাদেশ মহিলা পরিষদ, ১০/বি/১ সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা ১০০০। ফোন: ০১৬২৫০১৮৪৫৭
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		ওয়েবসাইট: <a href="http://www.mahilaparishad.org">www.mahilaparishad.org</a>

**প্রশিক্ষণ, গবেষণা ও পাঠাগার উপপরিষদ, কেন্দ্রীয় কমিটি, বাংলাদেশ মহিলা পরিষদ**