

2022 brought 50pc surge in killings of journos: UN

AFP, Paris
Killings of journalists and media workers surged 50 percent in 2022 to reach 86 worldwide, marking one death every four days, UN cultural body Unesco said yesterday.
Last year's increase followed three years with lower violence against reporters, with an average of 58 killings annually in 2019-21.
'After several years of consecutive declines, the steep rise in the number of journalists killed in 2022 is alarming,' Unesco Director-General Audrey Azoulay said in a statement.



People hold placards as they take part in a condolence and protest meeting in Kathmandu yesterday following the crash of a Yeti Airlines operated aircraft in Pokhara on Sunday. Nepal yesterday observed a day of mourning for the victims of the nation's deadliest aviation disaster in three decades, with 68 people confirmed killed in the plane crash.

PHOTO: REUTERS

AIR CRASHES IN NEPAL
Pilot couple killed nearly 16 yrs apart

REUTERS, Kathmandu
In 2010, Anju Khatiwada joined Nepal's Yeti Airlines, following in the footsteps of her husband, a pilot who had died in a crash four years earlier when a small passenger plane he was flying for the domestic carrier went down minutes before landing.
On Sunday, Khatiwada, 44, was the co-pilot on a Yeti Airlines flight from Kathmandu that crashed as it approached the city of Pokhara, killing at least 68 people in the Himalayan nation's deadliest plane accident in three decades. No survivors have been found so far among the 72 people on board.
'Her husband, Dipak Pokhrel, died in 2006 in a crash of a Twin Otter plane of Yeti Airlines in Jumla,' airline spokesman Sudarshan Bartaula told Reuters, referring to Khatiwada.
'She got her pilot training with the money she got from the insurance after her husband's death,' Khatiwada's remains have not been identified but she is feared dead, Bartaula said.

NEPAL PLANE CRASH

Black boxes found

Pilot didn't report anything untoward, says airport official; hopes of more survivors 'nil'

AGENCIES
Searchers yesterday found both the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder from a passenger flight that crashed killing at least 68 people in Nepal's worst plane accident in 30 years, officials said.
The data on the recorders may help investigators determine what caused the Yeti Airlines ATR 72 aircraft, carrying 72 people, to crash in clear weather on Sunday just before landing in the tourist city of Pokhara.
Both recorders were in good shape and would be sent for analysis based on the recommendation of the manufacturer, Teknath Sitaula, an official at Kathmandu airport, told Reuters yesterday.
The pilot of the flight did not report 'anything untoward' as the plane approached the airport, Pokhara airport spokesman Anup Joshi said.
Joshi also said that the 'mountains were clear and visibility was good', adding there was a light wind and 'no issue with weather'.
Mobile phone footage showed the

plane rolling sharply as it approached the airport. It then hit the ground in the gorge of the Seti River, just over a kilometre from the airport, reports BBC.
The pilot asked for a change from the assigned runway 3 to runway 1, which was granted by the airport, Joshi said.
'We could operate from the both runways. The plane was cleared for landing,' he said. It was 'very unfortunate' that the incident happened 15 days after the airport had opened for business, Joshi added.
Rescue workers scoured a debris-strewn ravine for four missing bodies from the mangled wreckage of the plane, with hopes of any survivors now 'nil', according to authorities.
Reuters footage from the crash site showed rescuers looking at the charred remains of the plane near the gorge.
The plane, on a scheduled flight from Kathmandu to Pokhara, gateway to the scenic Annapurna mountain range, was carrying 57 Nepalis, five Indians, four Russians, two South Koreans, and one person each from Argentina, Ireland, Australia and France.

CHINA THREAT

Japan, India start first joint fighter jet drill

AFP, Tokyo
Japan and India yesterday began their first joint fighter jet exercise near Tokyo as the countries upgrade defence and security ties with an eye on China's growing military might.
The 11-day joint exercise will involve eight Japanese fighter jets, with India sending four fighters, two transport aircraft and an aerial refuelling tanker, Japan's defence ministry said.
Around 150 Indian Air Force personnel are taking part in the exercise at the Hyakuri Air Base in Ibaraki prefecture.
The drill was agreed by two countries during talks between Japanese and Indian defence and foreign ministers in 2019, but was delayed by the pandemic.



Emergency personnel work among debris at the site where a building was heavily damaged in recent shelling in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict in Donetsk, Russian-controlled Ukraine, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Italy catches fugitive Mafia boss Denaro

AFP, Palermo
Italian anti-mafia police caught Sicilian godfather Matteo Messina Denaro yesterday, ending a 30 year manhunt for Italy's most wanted fugitive.
A ruthless operator who once reportedly boasted he could 'fill a cemetery' with his victims, the 60-year-old Messina Denaro was a leading figure in Cosa Nostra, the real-life Sicilian crime syndicate depicted in the Godfather movies.
The mobster was nabbed 'inside a health facility in Palermo, special operations commander Pasquale Angelosanto said.
He had been undergoing periodic treatment for colon cancer under a false name, and did not resist arrest, ANSA news said.

Western firms help junta make weapons

AGENCIES
Produced in factories known as KaPaSa and run by the military's Directorate of Defence Industries (DDI), these weapons include guns, ammunition and landmines and are primarily being used to quash resistance to the coup, the SAC-M said.
'Foreign companies are enabling the Myanmar military - one of the world's worst human rights abusers - to produce many of the weapons it uses to commit daily atrocities against the Myanmar people,' the SAC-M's Yanghee Lee, a former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, said in a statement.
'Foreign companies and their home states have moral and legal responsibilities to ensure their products are not facilitating human rights violations against civilians in Myanmar,' Lee said. 'Failing to do so makes them complicit in the Myanmar military's barbaric crimes.'
Companies in the US, Europe and Asia have been helping Myanmar's military manufacture weapons used in human rights abuses, according to former UN experts.
Companies from 13 countries - including France, Germany, China, India, Russia, Singapore and the US - have been providing supplies that are 'critical' to the production of weapons in Myanmar, the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) said in a report released yesterday.
This support includes licenses, raw materials, software, parts and components, the experts said.
As a result, the Myanmar military, which has launched a bloody crackdown on its opposition after seizing power in a coup in February 2021, has become largely self-sufficient in manufacturing a range of weapons, they said.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank (বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক) regarding the MCQ Test for the position of Assistant Officer (সিনিয়র অফিসার (জেনারেল)). The ad includes details about the exam centers, roll numbers, and contact information. It also features a table listing various exam centers across Dhaka and their capacities.