

SUDAN WAR 16 killed in Khartoum air, artillery strikes

AFP, Wad Madani

Air strikes and artillery barrages from Sudan's warring generals killed at least 16 people in a Khartoum neighbourhood yesterday.

After more than 100 days of war, the latest bombardments added to a toll of at least 3,900 killed nationwide.

"Sixteen citizens died today in this senseless war" when shells hit civilian homes in the Ombada area of Khartoum's northwest, a neighbourhood group said.

It is one of many pro-democracy "resistance committees" that have cobbled together supplies over the patchy internet, land lines, or by risking their own lives to venture out since the war began.

The total number of casualties from the latest strikes was still unclear, the committee added.



This handout satellite image taken and released by Maxar Technologies yesterday, shows smoke from a wildfire and burnt areas on the Greek Ionian island of Corfu.

PHOTO: AFP

SUPER TYPHOON The Philippines, China, Taiwan gear up for Doksuri

DEUTSCHE WELLE

Super Typhoon Doksuri rolled toward the northern Philippines yesterday with maximum sustained winds of 185 kilometers per hour (115 miles per hour), prompting evacuation orders for coastal areas.

Forecasters predict Doksuri will move on to hit Taiwan before plowing into densely populated parts of China with torrential rain and strong winds.

Doksuri, which is called "Egay" in the Philippines, is headed toward the northern tip of the main island of Luzon and pass the Cagayan and Batanes provinces.

While it was expected to remain offshore, the typhoon was likely to pass closely by outlying islands.

The country's weather bureau hiked the highest storm signal warning level of 5 over the Babuyan Islands, where as many as 20,000 people could be affected.

Cagayan's Governor Manuel Mamba said work and classes would be suspended to allow people to prepare for the onslaught.

Current heatwave 'impossible' without climate change: study

AFP, Paris

Blistering heat that has baked swathes of North America and Europe this month would have been "virtually impossible" without human-caused climate change, researchers said yesterday, as intense temperatures spark health alerts and stoke ferocious wildfires.

With tens of million people affected in the northern hemisphere and July on track to be the hottest month globally since records began, experts warn that worse is to come unless we reduce planet-heating emissions.

Severe heatwaves have gripped southern Europe, parts of the United States, Mexico and China this month, with temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius.

In the new rapid analysis of the scorching temperatures, scientists from the World Weather Attribution group found that the heatwaves in parts of Europe and North America would have been almost impossible without climate change.

Temperatures in China were made 50 times more likely by global warming, they found.

"The role of climate change is absolutely overwhelming," said climate scientist Friederike Otto, of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment, Imperial College London.

Intense temperatures have swept much of the southwest and southern United States - including in Phoenix, Arizona, which suffered a record-breaking three straight weeks of highs above 43C.

Blazes on the Greek mainland and islands have caused tens of thousands to flee, sent tourists scrambling for evacuation flights and prompted the prime minister to say the country is "at war".

In Beijing, the government urged the elderly to stay indoors and children to shorten outdoor playtime to reduce exposure to the heat and ground-level ozone pollution.

Scientists have already established that climate change - with about 1.2C of global warming since the late 1800s - has made heatwaves in general hotter, longer and more frequent.

To trace how far the July heatwaves in the northern hemisphere had departed from what would have been expected without that warming, Otto and her WWA colleagues used weather data and computer model simulations to compare the climate as it is today with that of the past.

Researchers said they focused on periods when "the heat was most dangerous in each region".

Otto said in the past it would have been "basically impossible" that such severe heat waves would happen at the same time and that people should no longer be surprised to see temperature records tumbling. The future could be even worse.

"As long as we keep burning fossil fuels we will see more and more of these extremes."

The researchers found that these severe heatwaves can now be expected roughly once every 15 years in North America, every 10 years in southern Europe and every five years in China.

And they will become even more frequent - happening every two to five years - if temperature rise reaches 2C, expected in around 30 years unless countries fulfil their Paris Agreement pledges and rapidly cut emissions.

The study also found that these heatwaves were hotter than they would have been without climate change.



The Maldives CEC sacked before polls

AFP, Male

The Maldives Election Commission has sacked its chief ahead of presidential polls in September, an official said Monday, triggering opposition fears it would be able to hold a free and fair vote.

Fuwad Thowfeek, the president of the five-member Elections Commission, was removed following a majority no-trust resolution, the official told AFP.

"He was voted out, but remains in office until the decision is ratified by parliament," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is seeking re-election in the September 9 polls in the tiny Indian Ocean atoll nation of about 380,000 Sunni Muslims.

Five opposition parties expressed concern over the commission's ability to conduct the polls after Thowfeek's sacking.

A new party, The Democrats, a breakaway faction of Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), claimed the commissioners who voted him out are close associates of Solih.

"The party is concerned that such actions will cause instability within the institution this close to the elections."

DIVISIVE JUDICIAL REFORMS

Israel braces for unrest

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel braced for fresh strikes and protests yesterday following a divisive parliamentary vote on a controversial judicial reform which has split the nation and drawn criticism from allies abroad.

The decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-right government to push through a key plank of its reforms on Monday has already sparked legal challenges and clashes on the streets.

Opponents were set to keep up months of protests yesterday, with doctors walking out.

"The hand, extended for dialogue, was left hanging in the air, as victory celebrations took place symbolising above all a war that only has losers," the head of the Israel Medical Association, Zion Hagay, said in a statement announcing the walkout.

The move came after the Histadrut trade union confederation threatened a repeat of the general strike it called in March over the reforms.

Amid the instability, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) continued to fall yesterday after slumping 2.21 percent the previous day.

The Israel Bar Association was among numerous groups to file petitions to the Supreme Court aiming to strike down the new legislation.

"A black day for Israeli democracy," read the blackened front pages of three of the country's top newspapers, which carried an advert by opponents of the judicial reforms.

Protesters remained on the streets late into the night following the vote

Chinese man gets life in jail for taking bribes

REUTERS, Beijing

A Chinese court has sentenced a former Communist Party secretary of eastern Hangzhou to life in prison, with state media saying he had been found guilty of taking more than 182 million yuan (\$25.48 million) in bribes.

The sentencing of Zhou Jianguang, the former party chief of the city southwest of Shanghai which is home to Chinese tech giants such as Alibaba and Ant Group, was made public at a court in Chuzhou, in eastern Anhui province, yesterday, CCTV news said.

Zhou was found to have personally or through his relatives taken bribes in cities and counties in Zhejiang province between 2001 and 2021 in return for aiding deals such as one related to construction and land acquisition. CCTV did not name any other parties involved.

Singapore to execute first woman in nearly 20 years

AFP, Singapore

Singapore is set to hang two drug convicts this week, including the first woman to be sent to the gallows in nearly 20 years, rights groups said yesterday, while urging the executions be halted.

Local rights organisation Transformative Justice Collective (TJC) said a 56-year-old man convicted of trafficking 50 grams (1.76 ounces) of heroin is scheduled to be hanged on Wednesday at the Southeast Asian city-state's Changi Prison.

A 45-year-old woman convict who TJC identified as Saridewi Djamani is also set to be sent to the gallows on Friday. She was sentenced to death in 2018 for trafficking around 30 grams of heroin.

If carried out, she would be the first woman to be executed in Singapore since 2004 when 36-year-old hairdresser Yen May Woen was hanged for drug trafficking.

Heads of 13 foreign missions

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In the joint statement published by the US embassy in Dhaka on July 19, the missions called upon the government to conduct a full investigation and take legal steps against the perpetrators of the attack on Alom.

"Violence has no place in the democratic process. We call for a full investigation and accountability for the perpetrators. Everyone involved in the upcoming elections should ensure that they are free, fair, and peaceful," the statement read.

Alom, who ran as an independent in the Dhaka-17 by-polls, was physically assaulted outside a polling centre in the capital's Banani on July 17.

On July 20, the government summoned acting UN resident coordinator Sheldon Yett to discuss a Twitter post expressing concern over the attack on Alom.

The tweet was posted by Gwyn Lewis, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh, on July 19. Unicef representative Sheldon is serving as the acting UN resident coordinator as Lewis is away from Bangladesh.

Lewis in the tweet said, "The UN in Bangladesh is concerned over the attack on independent MP candidate Ashraf Alom during the Dhaka-17 by-polls. The fundamental human right of everyone to participate in elections without violence should be guaranteed and protected."

Thai PM vote postponed, prolonging post- election deadlock

BANGKOK, Thailand

Thailand's parliament yesterday postponed a vote to choose a new prime minister, prolonging the kingdom's political deadlock more than two months after an election won by opposition parties.

Reformist candidate Pita Limjaroenrat, whose party won the election, failed to get enough votes in a first parliamentary sitting to select a prime minister on July 13 - blocked by military and pro-royalist senators.

general of the health directorate, said, "Everyone [healthcare providers] has to be aware about not revealing the sex of fetuses or making the mothers aware about the social repercussions."

The guideline has three purposes. The first is to create awareness for preventing the misuse of pre-natal diagnosis procedures and tests for determining the sex of the foetus at any time of pregnancy and the abuse of infertility treatment for selecting the sex of the foetus.

Secondly, sensitising key stakeholders on the "Code of Professional Conduct, Etiquette and

Ethics", provided by Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council pertaining to the non-performance of pre-natal sex determination and its social and demographic implications.

And lastly, facilitating awareness and enhancing knowledge on gender equality and valuing girl children.

Speaking as the chief guest, Md Anwar Hossain Hawlader, secretary of the health services division, said, "The government has ensured many facilities for girl children. Girls are blessings for a family but people have a lack of proper understanding in this regard."

Don't disclose sex of foetuses

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female foetuses may be victims of gender discrimination, resulting in increased violence against women after the birth of those, experts said at the event yesterday.

Dr Mohammad Mainul Islam, of Dhaka University's population sciences department, gave the keynote speech.

"Son preference' has dire demographic, social and economic consequences," he said, adding that the disclosure of the foetus's sex is quite common in Bangladesh.

About the guideline, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
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Local Press Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Manufacturers/Importers/Authorised dealers (engaged in related Business) for supply & Installation of following item to Khulna Essential Latex Plant (KELP) on urgent basis:

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & Opening
01.	EDCL(KELP)/PUR/LT /2023/293 Dt. 25/07/2023 Work site: Khulna Essential Latex Plant, Mattomdanga, Gilatola Khulna.	Supply & Installation of 1. Fixed type Air Circuit Breaker (ACB) (Details as per Tender Schedule)	Tk. 750.00/set Non-refundable	Closing: 09/08/2023 at 12.00 PM Opening: 09/08/2023 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money @ 2.5% quoted value in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Ltd." without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

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For: Managing Director.

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