

INDIA ELECTION

Suspected rebels kill BJP activist in J&K

AFP, New Delhi

Suspected rebels shot dead an activist from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party in Kashmir, local authorities said yesterday after the latest violent attack in the disputed region.

Police named the victim as Aijaz Ahmad, a local leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who was fired upon in Shopian district on Saturday evening, days after the region began voting in India's six-week national elections.

The BJP's local office in Kashmir confirmed yesterday that Ahmad had died and announced plans to stage a protest against the attack.

Two Indian tourists visiting the Himalayan territory were also wounded in a separate attack by suspected rebels in nearby Anantnag on the same day, police said, adding that both had been hospitalised.

Security forces had cordoned off the surrounding area to find those responsible for separate incidents, police said.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947, with both claiming the Himalayan territory in full.



Mourners react next to the bodies of Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike, at Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran hands down jail terms to pop singer Tataloo

AFP, Tehran

An Iranian court has sentenced popular singer and rap artist Amir Hossein Maghsoudloo, known as Tataloo, to prison for disseminating "obscene content", state media reported yesterday.

The underground musician, 36, had been living in Istanbul since 2018 before Turkish police handed him over to Iran in December of last year. He has been in detention in Iran since then.

His lawyer Elham Rahimifar said Tataloo was handed multiple "short and long" jail terms, without elaborating. The sentences can be appealed, Rahimifar told state-run newspaper Jam-e Jam.

Later, the Iranian judiciary's Mizan Online website said Tataloo was given a three-year sentence for "blasphemy". Mizan said he was facing other charges, without elaborating.

Under Iranian law, jail sentences run concurrently.

The trial against Tataloo began in March on charges of promoting "prostitution" and disseminating "propaganda" against the Islamic Republic of Iran and other "obscene content".

The heavily tattooed singer, known for combining rap, pop and R&B, was previously courted by conservative politicians as a way to reach young, liberal-minded Iranians.

AFP, Doha

The stranglehold on aid reaching Gaza threatens an "apocalyptic" outcome, the UN's humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said yesterday as he warned of famine in the besieged territory.

"If fuel runs out, aid doesn't get to the people where they need it, that famine, which we have talked about for so long, and which is looming, will not be looming anymore. It will be present," Griffiths said.

"And I think our worry, as citizens of the international community, is that the consequence is going to be really, really hard. Hard, difficult, and apocalyptic," he told AFP on the sidelines of meetings with Qatari officials in Doha.

An Israeli incursion into the southern

GAZA AID SHORTAGES

UN aid chief warns of 'apocalyptic' consequences



Gaza city of Rafah, launched in the face of international outcry, has deepened an already perilous humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

Griffiths, the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said some 50 trucks of aid

per day could reach the hardest-hit north of Gaza through the reopened Erez crossing.

But battles near the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings in Gaza's south meant the vital routes were "effectively blocked", he explained. "So aid getting in through land routes to the south and for Rafah, and the people dislodged by Rafah is almost nil," Griffiths added.

The UN said that 800,000 people had been "forced to flee" Israel's assault in Rafah. With fuel, food and medicine running out, Griffiths said the military action in Rafah was "exactly what we feared it would be".

"And we all said that very clearly, that a Rafah operation is a disaster in humanitarian terms, a disaster for the people already displaced to Rafah. This is now their fourth or fifth displacement," he said.

Slovak PM's life no longer in danger after shooting

AFP, Bratislava

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico's life is no longer in danger following an assassination attempt, Deputy Prime Minister Robert Kalinak said yesterday.

A lone gunman, who appeared in court Saturday, shot Fico four times and he was at one stage said to be fighting for his life.

"He has emerged from the immediate threat to his life, but his condition remains serious and he requires intensive care," Kalinak, Fico's closest political ally, told reporters.

The Slovak premier was shot as

he was greeting supporters after a government meeting in the central town of Handlova. He underwent a five-hour operation on Wednesday and another on Friday at a hospital in the central city of Banska Bystrica.

"We can consider his condition stable with a positive prognosis," Kalinak said outside the hospital, adding, "We all feel a bit more relaxed now."

The suspected gunman, identified by Slovak media as 71-year-old poet Juraj Cintula, has been charged with premeditated attempted murder and was ordered held in custody at a hearing on Saturday.



Official notice from the Bangladesh Civil Service Commission regarding recruitment. It includes details about the exam schedule, application process, and contact information for the commission.

Official notice from the Bangladesh Police regarding recruitment. It includes details about the exam schedule, application process, and contact information for the police recruitment office.