

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.

GAZA AID SHORTAGES UN aid chief warns of 'apocalyptic' consequences

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 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.

HEAVY RAIN, FLOODS 66 more killed in north Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul Fresh floods killed 66 people in Faryab province in northern Afghanistan, a provincial official said yesterday, in the latest deadly flooding to hit the country. Heavy floods in multiple districts of Faryab province on Saturday night "resulted in human and financial losses," Asmatullah Muradi, spokesman for the Faryab governor, said in a statement. "Due to the floods 66 people were killed," he said, adding that at least five people were injured and others were still missing. The flooding damaged more than 1,500 houses, swamped more than 1,000 acres of agricultural land and killed livestock in their hundreds, he said. The floods came a day after provincial police said more than 50 people were killed in flash flooding in the western province of Ghor. Just over a week ago, more than 300 people were killed in flash flooding in northern Baghlan province, according to the UN World Food Programme and Taliban officials.

Tunisia recovers bodies of four migrants Rescues dozens off its coast



REUTERS, Tunis Tunisia recovered the bodies of four migrants off the country's coast on Saturday, the national guard said, amid an increase in migrant boats heading from Tunisia toward Italy in recent weeks. The force said the coast guard separately rescued 52 migrants. The national guard arrested nine smugglers. At least 23 Tunisian migrants were missing after setting off in a boat for Italy. Tunisia has replaced Libya as the main departure point for people fleeing poverty and conflict in Africa and the Middle East in the hope of a better life in Europe.

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 for various posts. It includes details about the exam schedule, application process, and contact information for the commission.

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