

Delhi temp hits highest ever in India

IMD issues red alert health notice

AFP, New Delhi

Temperatures in India's capital soared to a national record-high of 52.3 degrees Celsius yesterday, figures from the government's weather bureau showed, as it warned of dangerous heat levels in the megacity.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), which reported "severe heat wave conditions", published the temperature automatically on its website after it was recorded by a station in Delhi suburb of Mungeshpur yesterday afternoon.

The recording not only broke the landmark 50C measurement for the first time ever in the city, but smashed the previous national record in the desert of Rajasthan by more than one degree Celsius.

The IMD has issued a red alert health notice for Delhi, which has an estimated population of more than 30 million people.



Policemen carry away a man from a so-called "Protestcamp fuer Palaestina" (protest encampment for Palestine) set up by students and sympathisers on the campus of the TU Wien Vienna University of Technology in Vienna, Austria, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

S Africa votes with ANC dominance under threat

Final results not expected before weekend

AFP, Soweto

South Africa's ruling ANC was fighting yesterday to defy expectations that it could lose its three-decade-long exclusive grip on power, as voters turned out for a watershed general election.

More than 27 million voters are registered for the most uncertain poll since the African National Congress (ANC) led the nation out of apartheid rule. Full results are not expected before the weekend.

With opposition challenges from both the left and right, unemployment and crime at record levels and a new generation growing up with no memory of the struggle against white-minority rule, the ruling party may be forced to share power.

After voting, President Cyril Ramaphosa, who is seeking re-election, said: "I have no doubt whatsoever in my heart of hearts that the people will once again invest confidence in ANC to continue leading this country. 'The people of SA will give the ANC a firm majority.'"

ISRAEL'S ASSAULT ON RAFAH

Biden's blurred red lines under scrutiny

AFP, Washington

Joe Biden's red lines over Israel's assault on Rafah have kept shifting, but the US president faces growing pressure to take a firmer stance after a deadly strike in the southern Gaza city.

Despite global outrage over the attack in which 45 people were killed, the White House insisted on Tuesday that it did not believe Israel had launched the major operation that Biden has warned against.

John Kirby, the US National Security Council spokesman, said that Biden had been consistent and was not "moving the stick" on what defined an all-out military offensive by key ally Israel.

But Biden faces a difficult balancing act both domestically and internationally over Gaza, especially in a year when the 81-year-old Democrat is locked

US NSC spokesman John Kirby said again there would be no change in policy towards Israel.

in an election battle with Donald Trump.

"Biden wants to appear tough on Rafah, and has really tried to be stern with (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu, but in an election year, his red lines are

increasingly blurred," Colin Clarke, director of research at the Soufan Group, told AFP.

"I think he'll continue shifting those lines, ducking and weaving, largely in response to events on the ground."

Facing US campus protests over his support for Israel, Biden said



earlier this month that he would not supply Israel with weapons for a major military operation in Rafah, and he halted a shipment of bombs.

Yet he has since taken no action even as Israel has stepped up air attacks and, as of Tuesday, moved tanks into central Rafah.

Instead, the White House has largely retreated to arguing about what does, and does not, constitute an invasion.

National Security Advisor Jake

Sullivan said last week there was "no mathematical formula" and said that "what we're going to be looking at is whether there is a lot of death and destruction."

At the White House on Tuesday, his colleague Kirby faced intense questioning over the Israeli strike, which sparked a fire at a displaced



persons camp in which dozens of people burned to death.

Kirby said the deaths were "heartbreaking" and "horrific" but again said there would be no change in policy towards Israel. "We have not seen them smash into Rafah," he said.

"We have not seen them go in with large units, large numbers of troops, in columns and formations in some sort of coordinated maneuver against multiple targets on the ground," Kirby added.

UK police arrest 40 people after pro-Gaza rally

AFP, London

UK police yesterday said that 40 people had been arrested and three officers injured after protesters refused to disperse following a demonstration in London over Israel's latest offensive in Gaza.

The British capital's Metropolitan Police Service said the individuals were arrested late on Tuesday for offences including breaching public order conditions, obstructing roads and assaulting emergency workers.

It said two officers sustained minor injuries after being assaulted while a third, who was struck by a bottle thrown from within the crowd, suffered a "serious facial injury".

The Met, as the force is widely known, said an investigation was under way to identify who threw the bottle.

Police had approved plans for the early evening protest - organised by a coalition including the Palestine Solidarity Campaign - outside the gates of Downing Street in central London.

But it imposed conditions including that the rally end by 8:00pm (1900 GMT).

Nine killed in series of missile attacks: Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine yesterday reported nine people had been killed in four regions of the war-battered country, as Russia presses gains on the front line where Kyiv's troops are struggling.

A missile attack on the eastern Sumy region that borders Russia killed two and wounded three, regional authorities said on social media. The governor of the frontline Donetsk region, which the Kremlin claims is part of Russia, said three people had been killed in separate attacks on Tuesday.

Governor Vadym Filashkin said two people had been killed in the town of Toretsk and another person was killed in an attack on the frontline town of Selidove on Tuesday, which is routinely struck by Russian forces.

In the southern Kherson region, which the Kremlin also claimed to have annexed in 2022 even though it is still fighting for control of the Black Sea territory, the governor said Russia had shelled housing and infrastructure facilities.

"One person died as a result of Russian aggression," said Oleksandr Prokudin, Kherson's governor. Last weekend, Russian forces carried out one of the single deadliest attacks in weeks on the northeastern Kharkiv region which borders Russia, hitting a busy hardware store.

Prosecutors said yesterday that the toll from the strike had risen to 19, after a 40-year-old employee of the store who sustained severe burns during the attack died in hospital.

INDIA POLLS UP holding the key to PM Modi's re-election

AGENCIES

All eyes are on the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (UP), as India votes to elect a new government. Spread over an area roughly the size of Britain, the state packs in nearly four times as many people.

With an estimated 257 million people, it is India's most populous state and would be the fifth largest in the world if it was an independent country after India, China, United States and Indonesia and ahead of Pakistan or Brazil.


The state is among just three in India which are voting in all seven phases in the elections which are spread over 44 days. The last phase of voting ends on 1 June and results will be announced on 4 June, reports BBC.

So, it's no surprise that UP - which elects 80 MPs in the 543-member lower house of parliament - is considered key to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's re-election bid as he seeks to return for a third consecutive term.

"It's commonly said that 'the way to Delhi is through UP' and a party that does well in the state generally goes on to rule India," says Sharat Pradhan, senior journalist in the state capital, Lucknow.

"Eight of India's former prime ministers," he adds, "have represented the state and in 2014, when Modi - originally from the western state of Gujarat - made his debut as an MP, he too chose UP." Modi held his seat in the ancient city of Varanasi in 2019 and aims to do so again this year.






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গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No:46.60.9000.102.14.203.19-751 Date: 29.05.2024

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (Helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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