Russia attacks Ukraine energy sites

100 missiles, drones fired

AFP, *Kyiv*

Russia fired a combined 100 missiles and drones at Ukraine overnight, in a barrage that targeted energy sites across the country, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Russia has launched dozens of aerial attacks at Ukraine's power facilities throughout the two-year war, causing significant damage and energy shortages.

"The enemy launched 53 missiles of various types and 47 attack drones," the air force said, adding that it shot down 35 of the missiles and all but one of the drones. Two thermal power plants were damaged in the attack, it added.

In a daily briefing, Russia's defence ministry said the strikes were a "response to attempts by the Kyiv regime to damage Russian energy and transport facilities."

Ukraine has hit several Russian oil depots and refineries in drone strikes over recent months -- something Kyiv says is fair retribution for Moscow's own aerial attacks.

SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE IN SINGAPORE

US seeking to build 'Asia-Pacific version of Nato'

Says China as US defence chief praises 'new era of security' in the region

AFP, *Singapore*

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin yesterday hailed a "new era of security" in the Asia-Pacific region, as Washington strengthens its network of alliances aimed at countering China's growing military might and influence.

From Japan to Australia, the United States has been deepening defence ties across the region, ramping up joint military exercises and regularly deploying warships and fighter jets in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea -- infuriating Beijing.

Responding to Austin, Chinese Lieutenant General Jing Jianfeng accused the United States of seeking to build "an Asia-Pacific version of Nato", and described the superpower as the "greatest challenge to regional peace and stability".

In the past three years, Austin said there had been a "new convergence around nearly all aspects of security" in the Asia-Pacific, where there was a shared understanding of "the power of partnership".

"This new convergence is producing a stronger, more resilient and more capable network of partnerships and that is defining a new era of security in the Indo-Pacific," Austin told the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

However, it was not "about imposing one country's will" or "bullying or coercion", Austin said, in an apparent shot at China, which has increased its sabre-rattling over self-ruled Taiwan and grown more confident in pressing its claims in the South China Sea.

"This new convergence is about coming together and not splitting apart," Austin said. "It's about the free choices of sovereign states."

The Shangri-La Dialogue, a major security forum attended by defence officials from around the world, has become a barometer of US-China relations in recent years.

This year's edition comes a week after China held military drills around Taiwan and warned of war over the US-backed island following the inauguration of President Lai Ching-te, who Beijing has described as a "dangerous separatist".

Taiwan is one of the thorniest disputes in US-China relations.

Austin met with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun on Friday for the first substantive face-to-face talks between the two countries' defence chiefs in 18 months.

China scrapped military communications with the United States in 2022 in response to then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Tensions between Washington and Beijing were further stoked by issues including an alleged Chinese spy balloon that was shot down over US airspace, a meeting between Taiwan's then-president Tsai Ing-wen and Pelosi's successor Kevin McCarthy, and American military aid for Taipei.

Friday's meeting offered hopes of further military dialogue that could help prevent flashpoint issues from spinning out of control.

Austin said the United States and China would resume military-to-military communications "in the coming months", while Beijing hailed the "stabilising" security relations between the countries.

The Philippines, a treaty ally of the United States, is a key focus of Washington's efforts to build an arc of alliances across the region.

Given its position in the South China Sea and proximity to Taiwan, which China claims as its own, Philippine support would be crucial for the United States in the event of any conflict.

The Philippines has increased to nine the number of military bases open to US troops under a 2014 agreement, including two in the country's far north less than 450 kilometres (280 miles) from Taiwan.

Austin insisted yesterday that Washington's commitment to defend Manila under their mutual defence treaty remained "ironclad", as repeated confrontations between Chinese and Philippine vessels in the South China Sea have stoked fears of a wider conflict.

ANC loses majority in South Africa

AFP, *Johannesburg*

South Africa's ruling ANC faced a search for allies to help it form a new government yesterday after it lost its three-decade-old absolute majority in a watershed election.

With 99 percent of the votes from Wednesday's election counted, President Cyril Ramaphosa's African National Congress had only 40 percent, a catastrophic slump from the 57.5 it won in 2019.

The party has enjoyed an absolute majority since 1994, when liberation leader Nelson Mandela led the nation out of white-minority rule and into democracy.

The ANC must now either negotiate a coalition government, or at least persuade other parties to back Ramaphosa's re-election in parliament to allow him to form a minority government reliant on other parties for support to pass budgets and legislation.

Boat tragedy kills 20 in Afghanistan

AFP, *Kabul*

Twenty people, including children, drowned when a boat sank during a river crossing in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province yesterday, a provincial official said.

"A boat with women and children on board sank on Saturday morning at 7:00am in the river in the Basawul area of Momand Dara district" of eastern Nangarhar, said Quraishi Badloon, the head of the province's information department.

He said five people survived the accident, the cause of which was being investigated. At least five bodies had been recovered and efforts were underway to find the others, provincial government officials said.

'We are hated'

Israelis feel isolation over Gaza war as sympathy over Oct 7 attack fades

AFP, *Jerusalem*

A series of diplomatic setbacks, strong condemnation of a recent Gaza strike, and intense protests on Western campuses have left Israelis feeling their country is unfairly isolated.

Israelis expected unwavering support from their allies and the international community after Hamas's October 7 attack.

But as Israel's retaliatory offensive against Hamas in Gaza deepened, it seems to have lost the sympathy it initially received after the unprecedented attack.

This loss of support intensified following last week's Israeli strike on a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah, which killed at least 45 people, according to Gazan officials. The military has denied targeting the camp.

The strike drew condemnations from Istanbul to Beijing and from Washington to Paris.

On social media platform Instagram, more than 47 million posts with the hashtag "All eyes on Rafah" have been recorded since the strike.

But Israelis remain defiant despite the growing isolation.

"I don't think Israel should care what the world has to say... I support our military 100 percent," Netanel Aronson, a 24-year-old Israeli-American, told AFP.

"I pray for them every day that they should be safe and come home."

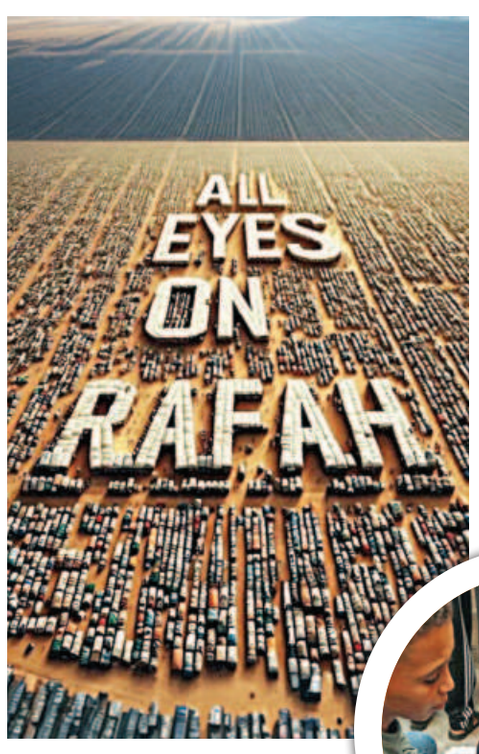
At least 36,379 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed in Gaza in Israeli bombardments and ground offensive since October 7, according to the health ministry in Hamas-run territory.

Israel's retaliatory campaign came after the Hamas attack resulted in the deaths of 1,189 people in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

The militants also took 252 people as hostages, of which 121 are still held in Gaza, including 37 the military says are dead.

"It is a tragedy for everyone," said Nathalie, who declined to give her last name, referring also to the fate of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

"Since everybody is connected, we can see what's happening. We feel that we are hated," the 50-year-old said.



"We have the feeling that we are accused of being colonialists and imperialists. But we see ourselves as refugees," she added, echoing the feeling of many Jews who arrived during the creation of Israel in 1948.

The Palestinians call the creation of Israel as the Nakba -- or "catastrophe" -- when about 760,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes by the war over Israel's creation.

Last month, Israel faced a series of diplomatic setbacks.

While the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to stop its ongoing offensive in Rafah, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court sought arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, along with three senior Hamas leaders.

Ireland, Norway and Spain also recognised a Palestinian state in a coordinated decision on Tuesday, while Slovenia's parliament is due to vote on such a proposal next week.

Political analyst Dahlia Scheindlin said Israelis were aware the war was damaging their global standing.

"(Israelis) think the world is against Israel. They think that many institutions and countries are anti-Semitic, and that there is a double standard," Scheindlin said.

She regretted the "devastating" impact of the war on Gazans, but said Israelis see the ongoing military campaign as an "existential struggle" for their people.

Scheindlin said Israelis have been demoralised over the setbacks at international tribunals after Israel was accused of committing some of the worst crimes in Gaza.

Such crimes "Israelis believed were only ever committed against them", she added.

"So, it's very hard for them to accept this. They fear the isolation."

Israelis are also countering the social media campaign "All Eyes on Rafah," with their own that says "If your eyes are on Rafah, then help us find the hostages".

In a survey by US-based Pew Research Center before the May 26 strike on a camp of displaced people in Rafah, 40 percent of Israelis thought the country would "definitely" achieve its Gaza war goals.

Only four percent of the Jewish majority thought Israel's military response in the Palestinian territory had gone "too far".

But for Christians like Annie Dikbikian, the war has only increased "the hatred" on both sides.

"It's affecting us... as Christians," said the Jerusalem-based hairdresser, who hoped "peace, love, and respect" would return soon.

Indian election: How accurate are exit polls?

AGENCIES

Voting for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections ended yesterday with the conclusion of the seventh phase. Before the final results scheduled for June 4, exit polls show the BJP-led coalition is set to win the election by a big margin.

Most exit polls projected the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) could win a two-thirds majority in the 543-member lower house of parliament, where 272 is needed for a simple majority. A two-thirds majority will allow the government to usher in far-reaching amendments in the constitution.

The exit polls for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections were due to be broadcast from 6:30pm yesterday, 30 minutes after the polling ended.

The actual results for all 543 parliamentary seats will be announced by the Election Commission of India on June 4.

Warning: The exit polls do not always get it right. They have been way off the mark in the past.

Here's a look at a summary of some data on exit polls projections published in various Indian news outlets and the actual results in Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019.

In 2014, predictions for the NDA, BJP-led coalition, were not very accurate. On average, the predictions were off by 55 seats. Some predictions were even further off. Predictions for the UPA, Congress-led coalition, were also quite inaccurate. The average error was just over 50 seats, but the errors varied widely.

In 2019, predictions improved for both NDA and UPA. For the NDA, the average error dropped to about 27 seats, with less variation in errors compared to 2014. For the UPA, the predictions were off by 22 seats on average, with fewer large errors.

In 2014, predictions were not very accurate for both NDA and UPA. By 2019, predictions improved a lot. The errors were much smaller.

This shows that polling methods and data collection got better over time. Polls in 2019 were closer to the actual results.

Noab honours 6 newspapers

FROM PAGE 12

make mistakes. The media's job is to identify those."

Referring to the country's slide in the World Press Freedom Index, he said that there was incorrect information in the ranking, and the information ministry pointed those out.

"In order to reflect the real picture of the country, they should have followed a well-established research methodology. But this was not the case here.

In his welcome speech, Noab President AK Azad said his association and the Editors' Council have raised concerns over the Cyber Security Act.

"We hope the government will take our concerns into cognisance," he said.

Ittefaq Editor Tasmima Hossain said her newspaper played a crucial role in 1971.

Nihad Kabir, a member of the board of directors of the Sangbad, said, "Newspapers are under pressure from various quarters. We try very hard to stay on the right path ... ."

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman said, "Free journalism is no longer an easy task around the world and in Bangladesh."

Shihab Malik, executive editor of Dainik Azadi, said his newspaper started its journey in 1960 and will continue to serve the nation.

Manabzamin Editor Motiur Rahman Chowdhury said, "In this country, some things can be said, and some things cannot be uttered. If we speak, there will be problems ... If the laws and regulations that tie our hands are removed, we believe we will be able to write freely."

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said nine laws work directly or indirectly against the freedom of the media.

"If you had given us more leeway, you would have been served better. This is the relationship between a free press and a government," he said.

Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud moderated the event.

UN mission in Iraq to end after two decades

AFP, *United Nations*

At the request of Baghdad, the UN Security Council unanimously decided Friday that the United Nations political mission in Iraq will leave the country at the end of 2025 after more than 20 years.

The Iraqi government welcomed the decision, saying it reflected progress and stability in the country since the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) was established in 2003 after the US-led invasion and fall of Saddam Hussein.

But analysts say the mission has struggled to make an impact in areas such as impunity, and that its exit is part of a trend for host nations to reject UN missions.

The UNSC resolution adopted on Friday extended the mission's mandate until December 31, 2025 "after which UNAMI will cease all work and operations."

The mission has about 700 staff, with tasks including advising the government on political dialogue and reconciliation, as well as helping with elections and security sector reform.

বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল
২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী
পুরাতন ৮৬ বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কথিত নাম: মো: নুরুল হাসান
প্রতারকের প্রকৃত নাম:সুভাষ চন্দ্র মোহন্ত

মো: নুরুল হাসান (তাহার প্রকৃত নাম: সুভাষ চন্দ্র মোহন্ত) গ্রাম: শাহীপাড়া, পো: রংপুর সদর, উপজেলা: রংপুর সদর, জেলা: রংপুর, উক্ত ব্যক্তি রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হইতে পাশকৃত একই নাম ডা: মো: নুরুল হাসান (বিএমএন্ডডিসি রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং: A-30921, Date:28.03.2001) এর রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের এমবিবিএস সার্টিফিকেট, রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজের প্রত্যায়ন পত্র ও রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালের ইন্টার্নশীপ সার্টিফিকেট প্রতারনার আশ্রয় গ্রহন পূর্বক কথিত নিজের নামে তৈরী করে বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল হইতে রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং: A-75685, Date:10.02.2016 গ্রহন করিয়াছেন, যাহা প্রমানিত হইয়াছে। এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল হইতে তাহাকে প্রদত্ব রেজিস্ট্রেশন (রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং-A-75685, Date:10.02.2016) বাতিল করা হইয়াছে এবং তাহার বিরুদ্ধে ফৌজদারী আইনে মামলা দায়ের করা হইবে।

এই প্রসঙ্গে বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল আইন,২০১০ সনের ৬১নং আইন এর ধারা ২৮(১) সকলের অবগতির জন্য উদ্ধৃত হইল ঃ-

২৮। প্রতারণামূলক প্রতিনিধিত্ব বা নিবন্ধনের দন্ড।-(১) "যদি কোন ব্যক্তি প্রতারণার আশ্রয় লইয়া ইচ্ছাকৃতভাবে নিজেকে একজন স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল চিকিৎসক বা স্বীকৃত ডেন্টাল চিকিৎসক হিসাবে এই আইনের অধীনে নিবন্ধন, অথবা নিবন্ধন করিবার উদ্যোগ গ্রহন, অথবা মিথ্যা বা প্রতারণামূলক প্রতিনিধিত্ব প্রকাশ করিবার চেষ্টা করেন অথবা মৌখিক বা লিখিতভাবে উক্তরূপ ঘোষনা করেন, তাহা হইলে উক্ত ব্যক্তির অনুরূপ কার্য হইবে একটি অপরাধ, এবং তজ্জন্য তিনি ৩ (তিন) বৎসর কারাদন্ড অথবা ১ (এক) লক্ষ টাকা অর্থদন্ড বা উভয় দন্ডে দন্ডনীয় হইবেন"।

এমতাবস্থায় তিনি নিজেকে চিকিৎসক বলিয়া পরিচয় দিতে কিংবা চিকিৎসা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করিতে পারিবেন না। তিনি যদি চিকিৎসা কার্য চালাইয়া যান তাহা হইলে আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থাসমূহকে সকলকে অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

29.05.24

ডা: মো: লিয়াকত হোসেন
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল