

UK ELECTION Govt warns of Russian interference

AFP, London

Britain's deputy prime minister warned yesterday that the country's upcoming general election faces threats from hostile actors such as Russia seeking to influence the UK's democratic process.

The country will go to polls on Thursday, in an election expected to oust governing right-wing Conservatives and put opposition Labour party in power.

His comments came after the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that it had uncovered five Facebook pages spreading the same pro-Kremlin talking points.

Some of them encouraged support for the hard-right Reform UK party led by Brexiteer Nigel Farage.

"There is a threat in all elections, and indeed we see it in this election from hostile state actors seeking to influence the outcome of the election campaign," Oliver Dowden told Sky News.

Delhi's heavy rains claim 11 lives Flight operations stutter in the city's main airport

REUTERS, New Delhi

The death toll from this week's sudden heavy rain has climbed to 11 in New Delhi, including four citizens who drowned in submerged underpasses, the Times of India reported, while flight operations stuttered in the Indian capital.

New Delhi, which endured one of its worst heatwaves in history earlier this month, faced the biggest downpour in decades on June 28, with rainfall in a single day surpassing the city's average for the entire month.

The torrential rain caused a fatal roof collapse at one of the three terminals of Delhi's main airport, disrupted flights, flooded underpasses, and led to massive traffic jams, power and water outages in parts of the city.

Nearly 60 flights were cancelled from New Delhi's main airport in the last 24 hours. Operations were largely normal yesterday, with most flights from the affected terminal diverted to the other two, an airport official said.



A Palestinian woman bakes unleavened bread in a makeshift oven while sitting on the rubble of buildings destroyed in the Israeli bombardment, as some residents return to the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hospital generators to run out of fuel in 48 hrs

Warns Gaza health ministry as much of electricity
infrastructure decimated by Israeli attacks

AGENCIES

Gaza's few functional hospitals and health facilities could lose power in 48 hours if they don't receive fuel, causing life-saving medical equipment to stop working.

"We appeal to all relevant, international and humanitarian institutions to intervene quickly to bring in the necessary fuel," the Hamas-run health ministry said in a statement.

With much of Gaza's electricity infrastructure decimated by Israeli attacks, hospitals are largely dependent on generators, powered by fuel, for life-saving operations.

Recurring fuel shortages have frequently caused hospitals to go dark, putting patients' lives at serious risk.

Meanwhile, explosions, air strikes and gunfire rattled northern and southern Gaza yesterday, the fourth day of an Israeli military operation that has uprooted tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Mohammed Harara, 30, said he and his family fled their home in Shujaia with nothing, "due to the bombardment by Israeli planes, tanks and drones", reports AFP.

The United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA estimated that "about 60,000 to 80,000 people were displaced" from the area this week.

At least 1,15,000 Palestinians from Gaza have fled to Egypt during the Israeli bombardment.

The number includes several thousand sick and wounded Palestinians who were medically evacuated, Al Jazeera reports according to The Washington Post,



who cited the Palestinian embassy in Cairo.

The rest reached Egypt with assistance from foreign embassies or through a private Egyptian travel agency, which charges large sums to coordinate their exit, The Post added.

"Most remain in limbo, with no legal status and nowhere else to go," it reports. "They are members of a new diaspora of Palestinians, a people already haunted by memories of displacement."

In a separate development, Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry has issued a statement expressing the kingdom's condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli decision to "expand blatant settlement activity in the West Bank", Al Jazeera reports.

The ministry said Saudi Arabia "firmly rejects the continuous Israeli violations of international law and resolutions of international legitimacy".

The Israeli action poses "severe consequences", given the "lack of international accountability mechanisms," the statement said, adding that "these transgressions undercut the prospects for peace and exacerbate conflicts, destabilising regional and international security and stability".

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's plans to recognise five illegal settler outposts in the occupied West Bank.

In addition to recognising the outposts, Smotrich's plan removes civilian powers related to construction and zoning in one-fifth of the occupied West Bank, in what is known as "Area B".

‘Asian version of Nato’ North Korea condemns drills by US, Japan, South Korea

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea criticised a joint military exercise by South Korea, Japan and the United States held this month, state media said yesterday, saying such drills show the relationship among three countries has developed into "the Asian version of Nato".

On Thursday, the three countries began large-scale joint military drills called "Freedom Edge" involving navy destroyers, fighter jets and the nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt.

Pyeongyang will not ignore strengthening of a military bloc led by US and its allies and will protect regional peace with an aggressive response, North Korea's foreign ministry said. It also said Washington was continuing its effort to link up South Korea and Japan to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato).

Russia downs 36 Ukraine- launched drones Claims two more east Ukrainian villages

REUTERS

Russia's air defence systems destroyed 36 drones that Ukraine launched overnight targeting several regions in Russia's southwest, the Russian defence ministry said yesterday.

Fifteen drones were destroyed over the Kursk region that borders Ukraine and nine over the Lipetsk region, several hundred kilometres south of Moscow, the defence ministry said on the Telegram messaging app.

Four drones were destroyed each over the Voronezh and Bryansk regions in southwestern Russia and two each over the nearby Oryol and Belgorod regions.

The governors of the Lipetsk and Bryansk regions said on their Telegram channels that there were no injuries or extensive damage as a result of the attacks, reports Reuters.

Kyiv has said attacks on Russia's military, transport and energy infrastructure are in response to Moscow's attacks on Ukraine's territory since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday also claimed two more east Ukrainian villages as its forces have had the upper hand over Kyiv on the battlefield for months.

Moscow has claimed new villages in the east of Ukraine regularly for weeks, as outgunned and outmanned Ukrainian forces struggle to hold them back.

POST-COUP MYANMAR Central bank denies UN report on weapons transactions

REUTERS

Myanmar's central bank denied a UN report that the military government can still access money and weapons for its war against anti-coup forces, saying financial institutions under bank's supervision followed prescribed procedures.

The Central Bank of Myanmar "expressed our strong objection to the UN Special Rapporteur's report", it said in a statement published in a junta newspaper on Saturday.

"The UN report severely harms the interests of Myanmar civilians and the relationship between Myanmar and other countries,"

The rapporteur on Myanmar's human rights, Tom Andrews, reported on Wednesday that while international efforts to isolate the junta appear to have dented its ability to buy military equipment, it still imported \$253 million worth of weapons, dual-use technologies, manufacturing equipment and other materials in the 12 months to March.

The report said Myanmar had the help of international banks, including those from Southeast Asian neighbour Thailand, for its purchases.

Facing its biggest challenge since its 2021 coup against Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's government, Myanmar's military is caught up in multiple, low-intensity conflicts and grappling to stabilise a crumbling economy.



Militants turning to apps

FROM PAGE 1

Some of these groups have over 500 members or followers, who are possibly looking for an opportunity to stage a subversive act, they add.

"Our research suggests that only 10 percent of the militants on bail have been deradicalised ... The militants on bail are supposed to appear at the respective police stations every month. We do not have the capacity to monitor each of them, but we are trying our best," says CTTC chief Asaduzzaman.

In the Middle East, Al Hafs Al Koraisi took IS leadership on August 3 last year. In separate messages in September last year and on January 7 this year, Hafs asked all the IS inspired militants to organise and conduct subversive activities, officers say.

Subsequently, there have been a number of IS attacks killing hundreds in Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Syria, and Afghanistan, they add.

Inspired by the messages, Neo JMB members who have been inactive since the countrywide anti-militancy drive in 2016 and 2017 are beginning to organise.

According to law enforcers, 69 militants, including top leaders, were killed in the

raids over those two years.

Neo JMB was earlier found involved in the Holey Artisan café attack in Gulshan that left 22 people dead, including foreigners and two policemen.

After the Holey Artisan Café attack, CTTC arrested 200 suspected members of Jamaat ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), 128 of Neo JMB, 230 of Ansar Al Islam, 15 of Huji B, 120 of Hizb ut-Tahrir, 41 of Imam Mahmud Kallela, 18 of Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya, and 22 of other militant outfits.

"We are keeping an eye on the suspects now out on bail," says SK Imran Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of the CTTC.

NEW LEADERSHIP

According to an intelligence report, the new Neo JMB chief Maulana Abu Bakar is believed to be hiding somewhere in the Middle East.

He spent a period in Afghanistan, and was earlier involved with Harkat Ul Jihad Al Islami Bangladesh, reads an intelligence report.

Bakar got the charge after Abul Abbas Al Bangali, also known as Mahadi Hasan Jon, was arrested in Turkey based on CTTC's intelligence a year ago.

Bakar has tasked some of the followers to buy foreign firearms by collecting funds,

says the report.

Besides, the outfit is planning to hack into the cable TV network in different parts of the country and "broadcast" content asking viewers to join it.

It also has plans to bring all its members under a single platform, form separate cells under a chain of command, and reduce its "gap" with other Islamist groups.

Rahmat Ullah Choudhury, deputy commissioner at CTTC unit, says, "There is a very thin line between the Islamist terrorist outfits like Neo JMB or Ansar Al Islam ABT and the so-called Islamist parties. The ideological spectrum of all Islamist parties overlap and they may come to a common platform in the near future."

In its last attack, the outfit on May 17, 2021, exploded a strong IED in front of a police traffic control room in Narayanganj. The members are using Threema, Wickr Me, and Telegram for communication to avoid surveillance, the report reads.

CTTC unit chief Asaduzzaman said, "There is no specific threat. The extremists do not have the capacity to carry out an attack like the Holey Artisan. But they have many sympathisers and supporters online."

Cybercriminals

FROM PAGE 1

to register the consignment with the NBR server, said customs officials involved in the investigation.

However, the importer and Zakaria denied their involvement in the incident.

Chattogram Customs House Commissioner Mohammad Fyzur Rahman has sent a primary report on the breach of the server to the NBR chairman with a recommendation that an investigation committee consisting of IT experts be formed to identify the "cybercriminal gang".

The report said cigarettes were imported from Thailand with a declaration of importing water purifiers. The consignment was registered with the server at 11:45pm on May 20 by using the ID of Zakaria. The data on the consignment was accessed again by the same user at midnight on May 21 to complete the clearing process.

According to officials, an authorised individual can access the NBR server only from a specific IP address. Once the individual uses his user ID to log into the server, an OTP (one time password) is sent his mobile phone for verification. This is done to restrict any unauthorised access to the server.

However, in this particular case, the "gang" accessed the server from a different IP

addresses and no OTP was sent to the mobile phone of the official concerned, said investigators.

Customs Commissioner Mohammad Fyzur Rahman said, "The NBR had taken some steps after a large numbers of consignments were cleared from the port by using the IDs of customs officials to evade tax. Use of the particular IP and sending OTP to mobile phone are among those."

"After the latest incident of breaching the server, it seems that those measures are not enough," he told The Daily Star.

Mamunor Rahman, manager (supply) of Hamco Corporation, told The Daily Star, "We are not sure who used our company's name to import the consignment of cigarettes. We have requested the customs officials to probe the incident to identify the culprits."

The use of the login credentials of customs officials to release imported goods is not a new phenomenon.

Over the last three years, at least 38 imported consignments of goods were released illegally by using the IDs of at least eight revenue officials.

Customs Commissioner Fyzur said, "I hope if an investigation committee consisting of experts is formed in this regard, we will get the real picture."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তর "উল্লেখ্য পর্বতে ৫০টি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র স্থাপন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্প জনশক্তি কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো ১৯/১২ কারকাইল, ঢাকা। www.bmet.gov.bd		তারিখ: ০১.০৭.২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।
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০৬. দপ্তর/আবেদনকারীর পরিচিতি নম্বর ও তারিখ	৬. একমুদ্রা প্রদানের পদ্ধতিতে উদ্ভূত দরপত্র।	
০৭. দপ্তর/আবেদনকারীর নাম / পদ্ধতি	৭. (ক) জনবল সরবরাহের টেন্ডার প্রদানের সময় (খ) দল বাসন ট্রেন পরিচালনা (গ) দল বাসন অফিসের সময় (১০১০-২০২৪) (ঘ) জাতি প্রোগ্রামের সময় (৬) বাসন পরিচালনা সময় ও পদ ০৬ মাসের ব্যাক টেন্ডারে (৮) সরকারি/আইআর সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে জনবল সরবরাহের ০৪ (চার) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	
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১৪. জনবল সরবরাহের সময়	১৪. ০১/০৭/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।	
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১৬. দপ্তর/আবেদনকারীর পরিচিতি	১৬. প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বাক্ষরকারী কর্তৃক সীল ও স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত পত্রকে আবেদন এবং চালানের ফটোকপি সহ দরপত্র দাখিল করা হবে। চালানের সুশাসন দপ্তরকে সংশ্লিষ্ট দাখিল করতে হবে।	
১৭. দপ্তর/আবেদনকারীর পরিচিতি	১৭. প্রকল্প পরিচালক (মুখ্য সচিব)	
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GD-1055