

Helicopter crashes in Nepali forest

All 5 on board killed

REUTERS, Kathmandu

A helicopter crashed in a forest outside Nepal's capital Kathmandu shortly after takeoff yesterday, killing all five people on board, an official said, the latest of more than a dozen air crashes in the mountainous region since 2000.

The helicopter, operated by Dynasty air crashed into a Himalayan forest in Shivapuri National Park of Nuwakot district, 57 km from the capital, deputy Chief District Officer Krishna Prasad said.

Police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki confirmed all four passengers were Chinese nationals, three men and one woman, while the pilot was a Nepali male.

Local residents saw a fire emanating from forest and alerted authorities, he said.

The helicopter lost contact with air traffic control three minutes after takeoff, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal said.



Security force personnel search for the victims amidst the debris at the site of a helicopter crash on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday. All five people aboard including the pilot and four Chinese tourists were killed in the crash.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UK braces for more riots

Thousands of riot police on standby

AFP, London

Thousands of riot police stood ready yesterday as Britain remained on alert for disturbances during far-right protests across the country.

Nightly riots, during which mosques and migrant targets have been attacked, erupted after three children were murdered on July 29.

Police said they were investigating several racially-motivated hate crimes in Belfast on Tuesday, including an attack on a young boy that left him with minor facial injuries.

And far-right groups plan demonstrations yesterday in more than 30 locations, with immigration lawyers and buildings hosting asylum seekers primary targets, according to posts on messaging app Telegram leaked to the British media.

The government has said 6,000 specialist police are on standby to deal with the disorder, which has seen over 425 people arrested and at least 120 charged.

The violence broke out after girls aged nine, seven and six were killed and five more children critically injured during a knife attack at a Taylor Swift dance class in Southport.

Gaza prisoners subject to systematic abuse

Says rights group; Israeli army, prison service deny allegations, say law upheld

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel has conducted a systematic policy of prisoner abuse and torture since the start of the Gaza offensive, subjecting Palestinian detainees to acts ranging from arbitrary violence to sexual abuse, Israeli rights group B'Tselem said in a report.

It said the report, issued on Monday, was based on interviews with 55 Palestinians from Gaza, the West Bank and Israel detained in Israeli prisons since Hamas' attack on Israel that set off the offensive, most of them without being tried.

Palestinian prisoners were subjected to arbitrary beatings, humiliating treatment and sleep deprivation.

"The testimonies clearly indicate a systematic, institutional policy focused on the continual abuse and torture of all Palestinian prisoners held by Israel," the report said.

The Israeli military, which runs some detention facilities where Palestinian prisoners have been held, said that it operated according to the rule of law and any specific claims of abuse were investigated.

"The IDF categorically rejects



allegations of systematic abuse, including sexual abuse, in its detention facilities," it said, adding that monitoring mechanisms were in place to ensure facilities were run in accordance with the law.

A spokesperson for the Israel Prison Service said that all prisoners were treated according to the law and all basic rights were fully applied by professionally trained guards.

"We are not aware of the claims you described and as far as we know, no such events have occurred under IPS responsibility," the spokesperson said, adding that detainees had the right to file complaints that would be fully examined and investigated.

The B'Tselem report was issued

days after the Israeli military detained nine soldiers accused of severe abuse of a prisoner in a military facility in the Negev desert. Israeli press reports said the soldiers were accused of sexually abusing a member of an elite Hamas unit.

The report detailed allegations that Palestinian prisoners were subjected to arbitrary beatings, degrading and humiliating treatment and sleep deprivation, as well as "the repeated use of sexual violence, in varying degrees of severity."

"The overall picture indicates abuse and torture carried out under orders, in utter defiance of Israel's obligations both under domestic law and international law," it said.

UK TOP COURT

Former 'IS bride' loses citizenship removal appeal bid

AFP, London

A woman stripped of her British citizenship after leaving the country as a teenager to marry an Islamic State group fighter lost a bid yesterday to take her case to the UK's top court.

Shamima Begum, 24, had hoped to challenge an earlier ruling in which she lost an appeal against the removal of her citizenship.

But UK Supreme Court justices said she could not appeal again following her defeat at the Court of Appeal in February.

The justices found that her proposed grounds for appeal "do not raise an arguable point of law".

Begum, whose family is of Bangladeshi origin, was 15 years old when she left her east London home for Syria with two school friends in 2015.

While there, she married an IS fighter and had three children, none of whom survived. She said she was left stateless in February 2019 when Britain's then-interior minister revoked her citizenship on national security grounds after she was found in a Syrian refugee camp.

'Whom do we turn to for help?'

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A house owner of the area told this correspondent that Alamgir, son of another resident name Siraj, banged on the main entrance.

"When I opened the gate, they [Alamgir and others] held a machete to my throat and demanded Tk 5 lakh." He said, adding that they also beat him up.

"At one point, the attackers took cash worth Tk 2 lakh, including Saudi riyals."

Alamgir and the rest fled the scene on motorbikes later, witnesses said.

Imran Hossain, a security guard of a house in Bashbari, said some young people were moving around the neighbourhood on a truck, while several others were on motorbikes.

Meanwhile, locals, mostly students, in Mohammadpur and Shyamoli areas, have formed groups to stay vigilant in their respective neighborhoods.

Last night, a group of residents was seen in Shyamoli Housing area, ready to alert others if any threats were detected, encouraging neighbours to band together and confront miscreants.

Apart from Mohammadpur, such incidents of robberies have also been reported from other areas of the capital, including Jatrabari, Demra, Badda, Rampura and Vatara.

Mahbubur Rahman, a resident on Hashem Khan Road in Rayerbazar and a trader by profession, said they usually leave for home late into the night but their house owner has demanded that everyone be back by 10:00pm due to the ongoing situation.

"Around 11:00-12:00 at night, multiple groups roam around the area to commit robbery and looting, taking advantage of the absence of law enforcers on the streets. This has been going on for the last two days. Who are we supposed to go to for help?"

People have also reported that shops were broken into and looted. They are in fear that such incidents will increase if police stations are not operational soon.

With stations unmanned and arms and ammunition looted from many, a grave sense of insecurity has been prevailing in the capital and elsewhere.

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Indrajit Barua, a resident of Mohammadpur's Jafrabad, said a group of at least 15 teenagers armed with sharp weapons attacked his neighbouring house in

Ityadi Mor around 10:00pm.

An army team later arrived and apprehended some of them, he said.

"There were so many screams we heard during the attack. We were so scared, we switched off the lights in our house and stayed inside."

Like Tuesday, locals of Mohammadpur around 11:00pm last night began alerting residents through loudspeakers from mosques to potential attacks. Similar loudspeaker alerts were reported in Dhanmondi, Uttara, Shekerteek and Adabor last night.

Masum Basher, actor and resident of Dhanmondi 13/A near the 32no bridge, said, "There is a group of around 100 civilians mobilised from the nearby Taqwa Masjid. They are stationed at different parts of Dhanmondi trying to provide security."

Mahmuda Dipa, resident of Arshinagar in the capital's Bosila, around 1:00am early today told The Daily Star that an announcement was made last evening regarding possible attacks. "Around 11:00pm, some locals reported an attack and by 12:50pm, residents of all surrounding buildings gathered and chased the miscreants away."

According to a video footage on social media, the army detained one person with sharp weapons from that area.

In Mirpur's ECB Chattar, witnesses said that around 11:45pm a group of over 100 people carrying sharp weapons and firearms came there. At that time, locals called upon the army, who detained some of the attackers. Gunshots were heard during that time.

In the wave of violent mob attacks since Sheikh Hasina's fall on Monday, many police stations have been vandalised and set ablaze.

Amid this spate of criminal activities, the army yesterday requested the citizens to contact the nearest army camps in emergency, said a press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate.

It said the army will remain deployed to ensure the safety of the public, property and important government installations.

People were, however, requested to refrain from misleading the army with false information and rumours.

The ISPR also provided some mobile phone numbers of designate army control rooms.

Over 300 inmates flee Kashimpur, Kushtia jails

FROM PAGE 2

one stage, the guards opened fire, leading to the deaths of the six prisoners, reads the Prothom Alo report.

Contacted, the jail's Deputy Jailer Md Farhad Sarkar said multiple attacks were carried out from inside and outside the prison on Tuesday.

He said some relatives of the prisoners tried to break the jail gate to release the prisoners.

There are about 3,000 prisoners in the jail, according to jail sources.

In Kushtia, at least 104 prisoners fled from the district jail around 2:00pm yesterday, said Jailer Abu Musa.

Seeking anonymity, several jail guards said a group of BNP men were scheduled to be released on bail around noon.

When the BNP men were walking out of the jail, several hundreds prisoners created chaos at the gate to get out. At one stage, the jail guards opened fire to foil their attempt.

In Pirojpur, a group of jail guards yesterday kept Pirojpur District Jail

Super Debdulal Karmakar confined to his office for about three hours from 12:15pm alleging that he was involved in irregularities and corruption.

On information, Pirojpur Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Aminur Islam went to the jail and got Debdulal and his family members out of the jail compound.

On Monday evening, an unidentified number of prisoners escaped from the Sathkhira District Jail. However, at least 200 of them surrendered to the jail authorities a day later, according to jail sources.

On the same evening, a mob stormed the Sherpur District Jail, leading to the escape of 518 inmates.

On July 19, at least 826 prisoners fled the Narsingdi District Jail. During the jailbreak, around 85 arms and 9,000 bullets were looted.

However, around 598 prisoners surrendered later, and 51 arms and 1,085 bullets were recovered.

Our district correspondents from respective districts contributed to this report.

China launches air, sea patrols near flashpoint reef

US holds joint drills

AFP, Beijing

China carried out a combat patrol to test "strike capabilities" near a flashpoint reef in the South China Sea yesterday, as the United States and its allies held joint military drills in the same waters.

Tensions in the disputed waterway have spiked following a series of escalating confrontations between Chinese and Philippine vessels that have fanned fears of a wider conflict that could draw in the United States due to its mutual defence treaty with Manila.

Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing off rival claims of several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, and an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

Its claims include the waters around Scarborough Shoal - which Beijing seized from Manila in 2012 - where the Chinese military's Southern Theater Command said yesterday it had held joint sea and air patrols.

The triangular chain of reefs and rocks is 240 kilometres (150 miles) west of the Philippines' main island of Luzon and nearly 900 kilometres from the nearest major Chinese land mass of Hainan.

Beijing said the manoeuvres tested "the reconnaissance and early warning, rapid mobility, and joint strike capabilities of theatre troops".



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Local Press Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Manufacturers/ Importers/ Suppliers/ Authorized dealers (engaged in related Business) for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of following item for EDCL, Dhaka, on urgent basis :

S.I. No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	EDCL(Dhaka)/PUR/LT/2024/330 Dt. 07/08/2024 Work Site: EDCL, Dhaka	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Radiator- 01 set	Tk. 750.00/set Non-refundable	Closing :19/08/2024 at 12.00PM Opening :19/08/2024 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on Payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.

(Size: 6 Inch. x 4 column)