

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.

Ukraine pierces Russian border

Five people killed in Kursk region; several thousand civilians evacuated

AFP, Moscow

Russia was battling a major cross border incursion from Ukraine for a second day yesterday, with authorities evacuating several thousand civilians due to fighting, officials said.

The incursion began on Tuesday morning, with the Russian defence ministry announcing it had deployed air and artillery firepower to try to quash Ukrainian troops breaking into the Kursk border region.

"The operation for the destruction of Ukrainian army units is continuing," the defence ministry said on social media yesterday. "The enemy's movement further into Russian territory has been prevented," it added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Ukraine was carrying out a "large-scale provocation" in Kursk. He has pledged to support the region "on all fronts".

Kursk regional governor Alexei Smirnov said "several thousand" people had been evacuated from the region and all mass gatherings had been cancelled.

"Over the course of the last day, with our help, several thousand people left the shelling zone by personal transport," Smirnov said in a video message on Telegram. But he added: "The situation in the region is under control".

Sudan famine a 'shameful stain' on conscience

Say UN officials

AFP, United Nations

The famine in a displaced persons camp in war-torn Sudan is a "shameful stain" on the conscience of the international community, which failed to prevent it despite multiple warnings, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Last week an international committee responsible for assessing food insecurity declared a famine in the Zamzam camp, near the besieged town of El-Fasher, in Darfur.

It was the first time the committee had confirmed a famine in more than seven years, and only the third time since its monitoring system was launched two decades ago, said Stephen Omollo, assistant executive director of the World Food Programme, speaking at the UN Security Council.

"We have been clear that famine is a real and dangerous possibility... But our warnings have not been heard," he said.

The crisis has not received the political and diplomatic attention it desperately needs, he said, hoping that the declaration of a famine would serve as a "wake-up call."

"When famine happens, it means we are too late. It means we did not do enough. It means that we, the international community, have failed," agreed Edem Wosornu of the UN's humanitarian agency (OCHA).

Since April last year, a war has pitted the Sudanese army, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, against the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by his former deputy, General Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

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 were 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".



In this drone view taken on Tuesday, an inflatable dinghy carrying migrants makes its way towards England in the English Channel, Britain. PHOTO: REUTERS



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)