

BRAZIL PLANE CRASH

## All 62 on board killed

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

A regional turboprop plane carrying 62 people crashed near Sao Paulo in Brazil yesterday, killing all on board, local officials near the crash site said.

Video shared on social media showed what appeared to be the ATR-made plane spinning out of control as it plunged down behind a cluster of trees near houses, followed by a large plume of black smoke.

City officials at Valinhos, near Vinhedo, said there were no survivors and only one home in the local condominium complex had been damaged while none of the residents were hurt.

Airline Voepass said the plane, which had taken off from Cascavel, in the state of Parana, bound for Sao Paulo's main international airport, crashed in the town of Vinhedo, about 80 km (50 miles) northwest of Sao Paulo.

The unlisted airline said it could not provide further information on what caused the plane, which had a PS-VPB registration, to crash.

The aircraft was listed by flight tracker FlightRadar24 as an ATR 72-500 turboprop. ATR is jointly owned by Airbus AIR.PA and Italian aerospace group Leonardo LDO.FMI.

ATR did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Multiple attacks target ship off Yemen: agency

AFP, Dubai

A series of attempted attacks using missiles and a sea drone targeted a merchant vessel off areas of Yemen held by Iran-backed Houthi rebels, a maritime security agency said yesterday.

A rocket-propelled grenade exploded Thursday near the ship off the city of Mokha, which overlooks the strategic Bab al-Mandeb Strait linking the Gulf of Aden to the Red Sea, it said.

A missile also exploded close to the same vessel, which later reported an attempted attack by an uncrewed surface vessel that was shot down by armed security team on board.



Displaced Palestinians leave an area in east Khan Yunis towards the west, after the Israeli army issued a new evacuation order for parts of the city, in the southern Gaza Strip. PHOTO: AFP

## CROSS-BORDER OFFENSIVE Ukrainian drones strike Russian airbase

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine pressed on with a major cross-border incursion into Russia yesterday, also launching a significant air attack on a Russian airfield hundreds of kilometres behind the front lines.

The Ukrainian offensive into Russia's western Kursk region, launched Tuesday, appears to be the most significant attack on Russian soil since Moscow invaded in February 2022.

Russia said around 1,000 Ukrainian troops and more than two dozen armoured vehicles and tanks were involved in the initial attack, though it has since claimed to have destroyed many more pieces of hardware.

Moscow said yesterday it was moving more troops and

weapons to the Kursk region.

Kyiv has not officially taken responsibility for the operation, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in his evening address on Thursday that Russia needed to "feel" the consequences of its invasion.

**Moscow transfers reserves to western Kursk region, issues evacuation orders**

Ukraine said yesterday it had carried out a massive air strike on a Russian military base in the Lipetsk region, around 280 kilometres (175 miles) from the Russia-Ukraine border. The local Russian governor

Igor Artamonov reported a "massive" drone attack overnight and Russian state news agencies said the airfield was on fire. "Last night, the Ukrainian Defence Forces attacked the Lipetsk airfield," Ukraine's General Staff said in a post on Telegram.

It said it had struck "warehouses containing guided aerial bombs and a number of other facilities" and that a "massive fire broke out" with "multiple detonations."

Artamonov cancelled several public events in the region and issued evacuation orders for districts close to the air base.

Russia's defence ministry said it destroyed 75 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 19 over the Lipetsk region and seven over Kursk, where Ukraine's four-day incursion has focused.

## Trump, Harris to debate on ABC Sept 10

REUTERS, Detroit

US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic opponent Kamala Harris will debate on September 10 on ABC, setting up the first face-to-face match-up between the rivals in what polls show is a close race.

In a news conference, Trump said he wanted additional debates on September 4 and September 25 that would air on Fox and NBC. Harris said in a post on X that she was looking forward to the September 10 debate after Trump "finally committed."

She told reporters after a campaign stop that she was open to discussing more debates, but a campaign official reiterated their position that a Sept 4 Fox debate is off the table.

## UK 'on high alert' for more far-right rallies: PM

AFP, London

Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned yesterday that UK authorities must "stay on high alert" in the coming hours and days, amid fears of further far-right riots in English towns and cities.

His comments followed consecutive nights of relative quiet across England, after a week of near daily unrest in more than a dozen places in the wake of a deadly knife attack that killed three children.

Disturbances have continued unabated in Northern Ireland, however, where police have blamed pro-UK loyalist paramilitaries for fuelling nightly violence in Belfast.

Speaking during a visit to the headquarters of London's Metropolitan Police, Starmer said "swift justice" dispensed on rioters by police and the courts in recent days had acted as a deterrent to more disorder in England.

"I'm absolutely convinced that having the police officers in place these last few days, and the swift justice that has been dispensed in our courts have had a real impact," he told UK broadcasters.

"But we have to stay on high alert going into this weekend because we absolutely have to make sure that our communities are safe and secure."

## PHILIPPINES COURT Rappler wins appeal to overturn shutdown order

REUTERS, Manila

Philippine Nobel laureate Maria Ressa's news website Rappler won an appeal to restore its corporate licence after a court overturned a regulator's decision to shutter the media company.

The Court of Appeals, in a July 23 decision made public yesterday, had ruled the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) overstepped its authority in ordering Rappler's shutdown in 2018.

"Like a bull seeing red, the SEC ... plowed through law and jurisprudence to reach its mark - the death of Rappler," the court said in its ruling.

The SEC declined to comment, saying it has yet to receive a copy of the decision. Ressa had welcomed the decision, saying it was a "vindication after a tortuous eight years of harassment."

"Journalists are not the enemy," Ressa told a news conference hours after the ruling went public. Rappler's operating licence was rescinded in 2018 for violating foreign equity restrictions on media firms when it sold depositary rights to a US-based company.

## Int'l community ready to work

FROM PAGE 12

The EU, which imports products worth \$24 billion annually, looks forward to engaging with the new administration.

It also pledged to support this critical transition which should be part of a peaceful and inclusive process underpinned by good governance, democratic values, and respect for human rights, Borrell said.

China also welcomed the interim government.

Beijing values its relations with Bangladesh, and stands ready to work with Bangladesh to promote bilateral exchanges and cooperation in various areas and further advance the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson during a press briefing yesterday.

"China strictly follows the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs," the spokesperson said.

He said China respects Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the development path independently chosen by the Bangladeshi people.

"We stand firmly by our policy of good neighborliness and friendship with all people of Bangladesh. The friendship between China and Bangladesh runs long and deep."

The UN in Bangladesh is encouraging the process of making sure that Bangladesh's transition to democracy on the ground is peaceful.

In a briefing in New York on Thursday, UN Secretary-General's Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said they made it clear they want to make sure that the violence that has

been occurring in Bangladesh in recent weeks is tamped down.

"Certainly, we stand against any racially based attacks or racially based incitement to violence," he said.

The UN earlier had said it was ready to send a fact-finding team in the wake of massive violence and killings.

Asked on that, Farhan Haq said, "We'll see what kind of formal request we get from any new government that is formed. We, of course, stand ready to support the government and people of Bangladesh in any way that they deem is necessary."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered heartfelt congratulations to Prof Yunus and wished him great success in guiding Bangladesh towards a harmonious and prosperous future.

"I look forward to working with him to deepen cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh in the days ahead."

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offered sincere congratulations and best wishes to Prof Yunus and those who have taken up their duties in Bangladesh.

"Hopefully, our relationship with them will improve," she wrote on X.

She wished for Bangladesh's development, peace, progress, and betterment of people from all walks of life.

"Hopefully, the crisis will end soon, peace will return. Let peace come back to this world of love of yours and mine. If our neighbouring states are doing well, we will be doing well too."

UK High Commissioner Sara Cooke said she was privileged to witness the oath-taking ceremony for Prof Yunus and members of the

interim government of Bangladesh on Thursday night.

"The start of a new chapter for the country to chart a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future in the interests of all Bangladeshis," she wrote on X.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Troester congratulated the interim government and offered best of success.

"Germany will support its well-chosen priorities: restoration of security, full investigation of all crimes, re-establishment of the rule of law, structural reforms and smooth transition to real democratic representation," he said in an X post.

Bangladesh origin UK MP Rupa Huq wrote on X, "Good luck Muhammad Yunus back in Bangladesh from exile having assembled a diverse cabinet, including students and women."

"Would have never believed this earlier this year when he addressed MP and peers in Westminster. Hopefully genuine elections on the way."

US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi urged all government officials, the new administration and police chief, and the people of Bangladesh to do all they can to end the violence that has emerged across the country, including the brutal targeting of the country's Hindu minority, their homes, businesses, and their temples.

"The violence must stop and those responsible must be brought to justice to help the people of Bangladesh move forward as a nation. I will continue to closely monitor developments in Bangladesh in coordination with the US State Department," he said in an X post.

## BB governor steps down

FROM PAGE 1

Sheikh Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled the country in the face of an uprising.

On Wednesday, more than 100 BB officials staged protests in front of the governor's office demanding his resignation.

Rouf, the 12th governor of the central bank, has been absent from his office since then.

The Daily Star could not reach the governor over the phone for comments as he did not respond to calls.

A former senior secretary at the finance ministry, Rouf joined

as the central bank governor in July of 2022 when Bangladesh was facing the challenges of rising inflation, falling forex reserves and depreciation of taka.

His team had been unsuccessful in arresting the fall in the forex reserves, stopping the depreciation of taka, containing the increase in defaulted loan and above all fighting inflation, which hit 9.7 percent in the FY24, the highest in 12 years.

Economists said this was because of the central bank's failure to timely let the market forces to determine the interest rate and exchange rates.

Rouf, who was close to the former prime minister, faced criticism from different quarters after he had taken the initiative to merge weak banks with strong ones in a bid to salvage the vulnerable lenders and improve the image of the banking sector which was suffering from confidence crisis because of high defaulted loans, irregularities and weak governance.

He came under criticism again a few months ago when he imposed restrictions on the entry of journalists to the central bank.

The BB relaxed the restrictions after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government.

## 'Hasina did not resign'

FROM PAGE 12

challenged in court".

Wazed also said Hasina's Awami League party would contest the next election, which he said must be held within three months.

"I'm confident the Awami League will come to power. If not, we will be the opposition. Either way is fine," he said.

He said he was encouraged by a recent statement from Khaleda Zia, chief of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a Hasina foe, that there should be no revenge or vengeance after Hasina fled.

"I was very happy to hear Mrs Khaleda Zia's statement that let bygones be bygones," Wazed said. "Let's forget the past. Let us not pursue the politics of vengeance. We are going to have to work together, whether it's a unity government or not."

He said he was "willing to work with the BNP ... to have democratic elections in Bangladesh and restore democracy and to work with them to ensure that going forward, we have peaceful democracy where there will be free and fair elections".

"I believe that politics and negotiations are very important," he said. "We can argue. We can agree to disagree. And we can always find a compromise."

Asked whether he would be the Awami League's prime ministerial candidate, he said: "My mother was going to retire after this term anyway. If the party wants me to, maybe. I will

definitely consider it."

He said his mother was ready to face trial back home, as demanded by students who led the uprising.

"The threat of arrest has never scared my mother before," he said. "My mother has done nothing wrong. Just because people in her government did illegal things, did not mean my mother ordered it. That does not mean my mother is responsible for that."

He did not say who in the government was responsible for allowing the shooting of people during the protests.

"A government is a big, big machinery," Wazed said. "Those who are responsible, they should be brought to justice. My mother absolutely did not order anyone to commit violence against the protesters. The police were trying to stop the violence, but some police officers used excessive force."

"Our government immediately, and I was part of those conversations, I also told my mother, we need to immediately tell (our students wing) not to attack, stop the violence," he said.

"We suspended the police officers that shot at students. We did everything we could."

He said he would return home when he liked.

"I have never done anything illegal. So, how is anyone going to stop me?" he said. "The political parties are not going anywhere. You cannot wipe us out. Without our help, without our supporters, you are not going to be able to bring stability to Bangladesh."

## Interim govt formed

FROM PAGE 12

The Daily Star yesterday.

On Thursday, President Shahabuddin administered oath to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and the advisers to the interim government.

Bhuiyan said the full Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan gave the opinion after the president sought it through the law ministry.

The other six judges of the bench are Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md Ashfaque Islam, Justice Md Abu Zafar Siddique, Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim, Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Khashef Hussain.

The Appellate Division said in its opinion that the president can form the interim government in the current situation as there is no parliament now and the prime minister earlier resigned from office, SC Registrar General Bhuiyan said.

He also said the Appellate Division's

opinion was based on Article 106 of the constitution.

The article says, "If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to the Appellate Division for consideration and the division may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report its opinion thereon to the President."

The SC registrar general said the president sent the reference seeking the SC opinion as there is no constitutional provision on the formation of an interim government.

He, however, did not clarify whether the judges physically or virtually sat on the bench to deliver their opinion to the president.

The functions of the Appellate and High Court divisions of the SC were closed on Thursday.

## Six inmates killed

FROM PAGE 12

and inmates, were injured when a clash broke out between them on Thursday. At one stage of the clash, guards opened fire around 1:30pm as the inmates attempted to break out of the prison.

Jail Superintendent Abu Fatah disclosed the deceased's names yesterday, reports our district correspondent.

They are Arman, Shyamal, Jasim, Fazle Rabbi Babu, Raihan Miah, and Rahat Miah.

According to jail sources, the inmates set fire to the prison and held the jailer hostage.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the fire. The situation was brought under control around 7:00pm, said Fatah, adding that army personnel surrounded the jail during the incident.

Injured prison guard Rukunuzzaman was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The other injured, including five prisoners, are undergoing treatment at Jamalpur General Hospital.

On Tuesday, 104 prisoners fled from the Kushtia District Jail.

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

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.

## Army deployed

FROM PAGE 2

The release also mentioned that the Bangladesh Army is engaged in the security of various important installations in the country, including Bangabhaban, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Mohakhali Data Center.

"Efforts are underway to create panic among the public by spreading rumours through various social media platforms", the release said, requesting the public not to panic over such rumours and to use their judgment when communicating with army camps.

The Bangladesh Army is, and will always be, by the side of the people and always work for the nation's interest, added the release.