

India floods kill 15 after heavy rains

AFP, New Delhi
Torrential rains in India caused heavy flooding that killed at least 15 people, local media reported yesterday.

Rivers across the coastal western state of Gujarat have broken their banks and more than 23,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, according to the reports.

The Business Standard newspaper said 15 people had been killed since Monday across eight of the state's districts.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea, chief minister Bhupendra Patel said in a social media post.

Monsoon rains cause widespread destruction every year, but experts say climate change is shifting weather patterns and increasing the number of extreme weather events.



Israeli soldiers operate during a raid in the Nur Shams camp for Palestinian refugees near the city of Tulkarem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. At least 9 Palestinians were killed in Israeli raids and strikes in several towns in the north of the occupied West Bank, a spokesman for the Red Crescent said.

PHOTO: AFP

Russian attacks kill six in east Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Russian bombardments on the eastern Ukraine region of Donetsk killed six people yesterday, the governor of the region said, as Moscow announced it had taken another village in the area.

The industrial region has suffered the worst fighting of Russia's invasion. The Kremlin claimed to have annexed it alongside three other territories in 2022.

"In the morning the Russians killed four people and destroyed a house in Izmailivka," the regional official Vadym Filashkin said on social media.

He added that two more people were killed in separate attacks near Chasiv Yar that damaged more than a dozen homes.

Russia's defence ministry announced on Wednesday that Russian forces had taken another settlement, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the logistics hub of Pokrovsk.

Regional authorities have recently ordered large-scale mandatory evacuations with Russian forces advancing towards Pokrovsk, once home to around 60,000 people.

Filashkin said that 2,718 people, including 392 children, had been evacuated from frontline areas on Tuesday.

He later said on state media that some 30,000 people remained in Pokrovsk and surrounding villages and that banks would shutter in the town by Sunday.

India rape protests spiral into political street clashes

AFP, Kolkata

Thousands of protesters clashed in India's eastern city of Kolkata yesterday, where demonstrations seeking justice for a murdered doctor spiralled into violent street skirmishes between political rivals.

The discovery of the 31-year-old doctor's bloodied body at a state-run hospital in Kolkata on August 9 stoked nationwide anger at the chronic issue of violence against women.

That sparked strikes by medics and rallies backed by thousands of ordinary citizens across India, although many doctors have since returned to work.

But repeated protests in West Bengal state capital Kolkata have transformed into clashes between the state's ruling All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC) and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The Hindu-nationalist BJP is the party of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and holds power nationally, but sits in opposition in West Bengal.

"We want justice", BJP supporters chanted, referring to the murdered doctor, then demanding the resignation of AITMC leader Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister.

"Go back! Go back!" AITMC supporters shouted in return.

Banerjee accused the BJP of "dirty politics" and exploiting the doctor's death, speaking at a rally of party loyalists.

On Tuesday, police clashed with protesters, firing tear gas canisters and water cannons, and arresting at least 245 people.



US, China accuse each other of stoking regional tensions

AFP, Beijing

Top US and Chinese officials exchanged warnings against stoking regional tensions during a meeting in Beijing yesterday after China became embroiled in security rows with American allies Japan and the Philippines.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, making the first such trip by someone in his role since 2016, and Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi met in Beijing for talks that were meant to smooth over relations.

Sullivan, who is US President Joe Biden's most senior security aide, doubled down on Washington's pledges to defend its regional partners.

"Mr Sullivan reaffirmed the United States' commitment to defending its Indo-Pacific allies," the White House said in a readout of their meeting.

But after their meeting, state media reported that Wang cautioned Washington against supporting the Philippines in the disputed South China Sea.

"The United States must not use

bilateral treaties as an excuse to undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, nor should it support or condone the Philippines' actions of infringement," Wang told Sullivan, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

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Sullivan also "expressed concern about the PRC's destabilizing actions against lawful Philippine maritime operations in the South China Sea", it said, using an acronym for the People's Republic of China.

Trump, Harris TV debate on Sept 10!

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump said Tuesday he had "reached an agreement" for a September 10 debate with Kamala Harris, two days after he threatened to pull out -- although there was no confirmation from the US vice president that a deal had been struck.

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that the rivals had agreed that the ABC showdown would run under the same rules as CNN's June 27 debate, with no studio audience and each candidate's microphone muted when the other is speaking.

Calling ABC "by far the nastiest and most unfair newscaster in the business," Trump said the network had given him assurances that the debate in Philadelphia would be "fair."

But the Harris campaign responded by accusing Trump of moving the goalposts and was coy about whether it was accepting the terms.

Trump has previously balked at taking part in the debate, which comes on the heels of Harris's lightning rise as the Democratic White House nominee after Biden stepped aside.

Campus politics

FROM PAGE 12

operational so that the students' and teachers' opinions are taken into account. "However, we will know how long it will take to do that after discussions with the stakeholders."

Freedom of expression of students and teachers is mentioned in the Dhaka University Order, 1973, he said. "Those who founded the university formed the structures keeping these elements in mind."

The DU will prioritise rebuilding within a week the administrative structure required to resume academic activities.

"We are not waiting for a 100 percent perfect situation. We will resume [the activities] as much as we can. Such a situation is unprecedented in recent memory."

"My team hopes to start full-scale activities within a week. After taking office, we have been constantly talking to the stakeholders. We are trying to start the university's operations based on understanding with all. So, resuming the academic activities and reopening the dormitories is our first goal."

"The students have long been facing hurdles to an education-friendly environment. They have some reasonable suggestions, including those related to the student-teacher relationship and some others to infrastructural limitations. We will prioritise the issues that everyone is talking about in general," he added.

The next priority, Prof Niaz said, will be to cooperate with the outstanding researchers of the university. "It is a place of great interest to me. Our previous administration also took some initiatives to improve the university's rankings. Their good steps will be continued."

He said it would be a great challenge to make the students adapt to the changed situation.

"It has both physical and mental aspects. Maximum support will be given to get them out of trauma. I am committed to continuing to try to solve the problems of Dhaka University with everyone's advice."

Regarding the teachers' appointment on political considerations, the VC said such practices go against the spirit of the anti-discrimination movement, but his administration will first try to deal with the immediate crisis.

"It would be difficult for me to work on this agenda if the stakeholders do not agree with me or support me."

Prof Niaz called for opinions from the stakeholders. "My door is open for any suggestion and advice."

"If I don't accept the suggestion, I will disclose the reasons. At this critical time, it is very important to continue dialogue with everyone irrespective of party affiliation."

জেলা পরিষদ

ঢাকা

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(স্বাস্থ্য কার্যালয়ঃ সেক্টর নং ৬, আজমপুর, উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা-১২৩০)

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