

'We have to stay hidden'

Trump's deportation threats spark fear among farmworkers in California

AFP, Fresno

With planting season well under way in California, the leading US food-producing state, fear is taking root among thousands of migrants who labor to feed a country that now seems ready to deport them.

"We have to stay hidden," Lourdes Cardenas, a 62-year-old Mexican living in the city of Fresno, told AFP.

"You are unsure if you will encounter the immigration authorities. We can't be free anywhere, not in schools, not in churches, not in supermarkets," said Cardenas, who has lived in the United States for 22 years.

President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric has left people like her "depressed, sad, anxious" and fearful of being deported, she said. Cardenas is one of



A young man bids farewell to one of two Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike in Beit Hanun, in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday. The International Committee of the Red Cross called on Israel and Hamas to maintain their ceasefire in Gaza to prevent the conflict-weary region from sinking back into despair. PHOTO: AFP



more than two million people working on farms in the United States.

Most were born outside the country, speak Spanish and, on average, arrived more than 15 years ago. Still, 42 percent of them lack the documents that would allow them to work legally, according to the government's own figures. In January, surprise raids by immigration officials in Bakersfield, an agricultural city about 250 miles (400 kilometers) from the Mexican border, sent chills through workers in California's breadbasket Central Valley.

They were a stark reminder that the country some of them have called home for decades elected a man who wants them gone. "We were not afraid of the pandemic," said Cardenas, who did not stop working during the worst months of Covid-19. "But right now this is getting bad for us."

While they might be staying away from church, or altering their shopping habits, the one thing these migrant workers cannot do is stay away from work.

That is why for the United Farm Workers, the largest farm workers' union in the United States, the threatened mass deportations will not translate into more jobs for Americans.

Instead, they say, it will further drive down the cost of those migrant workers, making employers less likely to pay them the much higher salaries that American workers demand.

"You have thousands of people who are so afraid of being deported that they're willing to work for way less," union spokesman Antonio de Loera told AFP.

Israel blocks entry of all aid into Gaza

Says hostages must be released for truce to continue; 4 Palestinians killed, 6 hurt in Israeli attacks

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel blocked the entry of aid trucks into Gaza yesterday as a standoff over the truce that has halted fighting for the past six weeks escalated, with Hamas calling on Egyptian and Qatari mediators to intervene.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said earlier that it had adopted a proposal by US President Donald Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, for a temporary ceasefire in Gaza for the Ramadan and Passover periods, hours after the first phase of the previously agreed ceasefire expired.

If agreed, the truce would halt fighting until the end of the Ramadan fasting period around March 31 and the Jewish Passover holiday around April 20.

The truce would be conditional on Hamas releasing half of the living and dead hostages on the first day, with the remainder released at the conclusion, if an agreement is reached on a permanent ceasefire.

Hamas says it is committed to the originally agreed ceasefire that had been scheduled to move into a second phase,

with negotiations aimed at a permanent end to the war, and it has rejected the idea of a temporary extension to the 42-day truce.

Meanwhile, the ministry of health in Hamas-run Gaza said four people were killed and six others wounded in Israeli attacks yesterday after the first phase of a fragile truce in the territory drew to a close.

"Since this morning, four dead and six wounded" have been brought to "hospitals in the Gaza Strip following Israeli attacks in various parts of the territory", the ministry said in a statement.

Egyptian sources said that the Israeli delegation in Cairo had sought to extend the first phase by 42 days, while Hamas wanted to move to the second phase of the ceasefire deal. Spokesman Hazem Qassem said that the group rejected Israel's "formulation" of extending the first phase.

Under the original agreement, the second phase was intended to see the start of negotiations over the release of the remaining 59 hostages, the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, and a final end to the war.

Hamas wants Israel to move to 2nd phase of ceasefire

Iran MPs sack minister over economic woes

AFP, Tehran

Iran's parliament sacked the country's finance minister yesterday after impeaching him over soaring inflation and a plunging currency, state television reported.

Economy and Finance Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati lost a vote of confidence, with 182 of 273 parliamentarians present backing his removal.

On the black market yesterday, the Iranian rial was trading at more than 920,000 to the US dollar, compared with less than 600,000 in mid-2024.

Earlier, President Masoud Pezeshkian defended Hemmati telling lawmakers: "We are in a full-scale (economic) war with the enemy... we must take a war formation".

"The economic problems of today's society are not related to one person and we cannot blame it all on one person."

Lawmakers took turns angrily censuring Hemmati, blaming him for Iran's economic woes.

CLIMATE REPORT TIMING Nations fail to break deadlock

AFP, Bangkok

Nations failed to break a deadlock over the timing of the UN's next blockbuster assessment of climate change science after a marathon meeting in China that US envoys skipped.

At the issue was whether the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which informs policymakers, will deliver its next three-part assessment before a 2028 United Nations "stocktake" of the global response to rising temperatures.

Many wealthy countries and developing nations exposed to climate impacts wanted an accelerated timetable, arguing the reports would allow countries to be guided by the most up-to-date science.

But they faced objections from some oil producers and major polluters with rising emissions, such as India and China.

The talks in Hangzhou ran over by more than a day, wrapping up late Saturday night with an agreement to allow work to proceed without a definitive deadline for delivery.

The outcome was a "bitter disappointment", said Zhe Yao, global policy advisor at Greenpeace East Asia. The deadlock "only serves those who wish to hold back climate action, but climate vulnerable countries cannot wait", Yao said.

Eight dead in India avalanche Rescue operation ends

AFP, Dehradun

Rescuers recovered the eighth and final body from the site of an avalanche in a remote area of northern India, the army said yesterday, marking the end of a marathon operation in sub-zero temperatures.

More than 50 workers were submerged under snow and debris after the avalanche hit a construction camp on Friday near Mana village on the border with Tibet in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand.

Authorities had revised down the number of workers on site at the time of the avalanche from 55 to 54 after one worker, previously believed to be buried, was found to have safely made his way home before the avalanche hit.

The army used drone-based detection system to assist in its search operations.

Multiple drones and a rescue dog were also employed. Construction worker Anil, who only gave his first name, recalled his rescue hours after being buried by the avalanche.

"It was if God's angels had come to save us," Anil, who is in his late 20s, told AFP yesterday by phone from his hospital bed.

"The way we were engulfed in snow, we had no hope of surviving."

Being alive now felt "like a dream", he said.



Protesters march in Yosemite National Park during a demonstration against the mass firings of National Park Service employees by the Trump administration in Yosemite Valley, California, US, on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

US probe lands upright on Moon

AFP, Washington

A US company successfully landed its spacecraft on the Moon yesterday, marking only the second private mission to achieve the milestone – and the first to do so upright.

Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost Mission 1 touched down shortly after 3:34 am US Eastern Time (0834 GMT) near Mons Latreille, a volcanic formation in Mare Crisium on the Moon's northeastern near side.

"Y'all stuck the landing, we're on the Moon," an engineer at mission

control in Austin, Texas, called out as the team erupted in cheers.

CEO Jason Kim confirmed that the spacecraft was "stable and upright" – in contrast to the first private landing last February, which came down sideways.

"We're on the Moon!" Nicky Fox, associate administrator for Nasa's Science Mission Directorate, rejoiced.

The first image from the lander revealed the rocky, pockmarked terrain it had to autonomously navigate in order to select its

touchdown spot, having slowed down from thousands of miles per hour to just two mph.

Nicknamed "Ghost Riders in the Sky," the mission is part of a Nasa-industry partnership aimed at reducing costs and supporting Artemis, the program designed to return astronauts to the Moon.

The golden lander, about the size of a hippopotamus, launched on January 15 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, capturing stunning footage of Earth and the Moon along its 2.8 million mile journey.

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e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Brahmanbaria for the procurement of :

S.L No	Package No.	Tender ID	Name of the works	Downloaded & Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-01 /2024-2025	1075805	Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (05 Nos) & Bridge (2 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 20th (p) km (Ch.19+880m) to 27th (p) (Ch.26+890m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025.	25/02/2025 14:15 to 24/03/2025 17:00	25/03/2025 15:00
2.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-02 /2024-2025	1076512	Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (06 Nos) & Bridge (2 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 27th (p) km (Ch.26+890 m) to 36th (p) (Ch. 35+350 m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025.	25/02/2025 14:15 to 24/03/2025 17:00	25/03/2025 15:00
3.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-03/2024-2025	1076513	Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (9 Nos) & Bridge (1 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 36th (p) km (Ch.35+350m) to 41st (p) (Ch. 40+280m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025.	25/02/2025 17:00 to 24/03/2025 17:00	25/03/2025 17:00
4.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-04/2024-2025	1076514	Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (11 Nos) & Bridge (1 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 41st (p) km (Ch.40+280m) to 49th (p) (Ch.48+ 600m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025.	26/02/2025 18:00 to 07/04/2025 16:00	08/04/2025 12:00
5.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-05/2024-2025	1076515	Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (15 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 49th (p) km (Ch.48+600m) to 53th (p) (Ch.52+125m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar- Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025.	26/02/2025 18:00 to 07/04/2025 16:00	08/04/2025 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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