

## What is Indus Waters Treaty?

REUTERS, New Delhi/Karachi

India said it would immediately suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan as part of measures to downgrade diplomatic ties with its neighbour after militants attacked tourists in Kashmir, killing 26 men. The treaty had survived two wars between the bitter rivals and withstood many twists and turns in diplomatic ties before New Delhi's decision on Wednesday.

### WHAT IS THE TREATY?

The nuclear armed neighbours disagree over use of the water from rivers that flow downstream from India into the Indus river basin in Pakistan. The use of the water is governed by the Indus Waters Treaty, which was mediated by the World Bank and signed by the neighbours in September 1960. The agreement split the Indus and its tributaries between the two countries and regulated water sharing. India was granted the use of water from three eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas and Ravi while Pakistan was granted most of the three western rivers - Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. There is no provision in the treaty for either country to unilaterally suspend or terminate the pact, which has clear dispute resolution systems.

### WHAT ARE THE CONCERNs?

The nuclear-armed neighbours have argued over and disputed several projects on the Indus and its tributaries in India for years.



Pakistan is heavily dependent on water from this river system for its hydropower and irrigation needs. Pakistan says India unfairly diverts water with the upstream construction of barrages and dams, a charge India denies.

India has accused Pakistan of dragging out the complaints process, and says the construction of its Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects is allowed under the treaty. It has also sought modification of the pact to get around such delays.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

The suspension of the accord is not expected to have an immediate impact on the flow of water to Pakistan as India does not have enough storage capacity. But India's move could bring uncertainty for Pakistan's agricultural system. The suspension means India can stop sharing crucial information and data on the release of water from barrages/dams or on flooding, Indian officials said, adding that New Delhi will also not be obliged to release minimum amounts of water during the lean season.

### PAKISTANIS REACTION

Pakistan warned that it would consider any attempt by India to stop the supply of water from the Indus River an "act of war" and responded with full force across the complete spectrum of national power".



Ukrainian rescuers carry the body of a victim as they operate at the site of a Russian missile attack in Kyiv yesterday. A "massive" Russian missile attack on Kyiv killed at least nine and wounded dozens.

PHOTO: AFP

## Israel kills 36 more in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza rescue teams and medics said Israeli air strikes killed at least 36 people yesterday, including a family of six whose home was struck in Gaza City.

Israel resumed its military offensive in the Gaza Strip on March 18, following the collapse of a two-month ceasefire that had brought a temporary halt to fighting in the blockaded Palestinian territory.

Six members of one family -- a couple and their four children -- were killed when an air strike levelled their home in northern Gaza City, the civil defence said in a statement.

Nidal al-Sarafiti, a relative of the family, said the strike came as the family was sleeping.

"What can I say? The destruction has spared no one," he told AFP.

Nine people were killed and several wounded in another strike on a former police station in the Jabalia area of northern Gaza, according to a statement from the Indonesian hospital, where the casualties were brought.

"The bombing was extremely intense and it shook the entire area," said Abdel Qader Sabah, 23, from Jabalia.

"Everyone started running and screaming, not knowing what to do from the horror and severity of the bombing."

The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas "command and control centre" in the Jabalia area but did not specify whether the target was the police station.

"The command and control centre was used by the terrorists to plan and execute terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians



and IDF troops," it said in a statement.

Elsewhere, 21 people were killed in a series of strikes across the territory, medics and the civil defence agency reported, including several in the southern area of Khan Yunis.

"We were sitting in peace when the missile fell," said Mohammed Faris, who witnessed a strike on the house in Khan Yunis. "I just don't understand... what's happening."

Bodies lay on the ground, including those of a young woman and a boy in body bags, surrounded by grieving relatives kissing and stroking their faces, AFP footage showed.

"One by one we are getting martyred, dying in pieces," said Rania al-Jumla, who lost her sister in another air strike in

Khan Yunis.

"We have had enough. Every day there's death, every day we lose someone dear to us."

Since Israel resumed its military operations, at least 1,978 people have been killed in Gaza, raising the overall death toll to at least 51,355 since the war began, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Israeli officials maintain that the ongoing military campaign is essential to securing the release of the remaining hostages.

However, many families of the captives, along with thousands of protesters, have strongly criticised the authorities for pressing ahead with the offensive rather than striking a deal.

## US slams anti-fossil fuel policies

AFP, London

An international summit on the future of energy security opened in London yesterday with stark opposition from Washington, which called policies to phase out fossil fuels "harmful and dangerous".

Profound differences emerged at the two-day International Energy Agency (IEA) meeting over the role of renewables in satisfying the world's thirst for energy.

"Some want to regulate every form of energy besides the so-called renewables, completely out of existence... We oppose these harmful and dangerous policies. This is not energy security," Tommy Joyce, US Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, told the conference.

That contrasted to a more moderate message from IEA executive director Fatih Birol in opening remarks at the summit, co-hosted by the UK.

"Every economy has its own pathway for energy. We should understand and respect it," he said.

He added also that "oil and gas are key parts of our energy mix, and they will remain as part of the energy mix in years to come."

Birol's comments depart from the IEA's own forecast in 2023 that fossil fuel demand would peak before 2030.

Several energy ministers from European countries attended the gathering, including 120 senior government officials, business leaders, and experts.

The United States is only represented by acting deputy secretaries of state, while China, Saudi Arabia and Russia are skipping the event altogether.

**'Only you can make this journey of forgiveness'**

**Macron seeks conciliation in Madagascar for colonial past**

AFP, Antananarivo

President Emmanuel Macron yesterday said during a visit to Madagascar he wanted to work toward "forgiveness" for France's colonisation of the Indian Ocean island, including with the return of cultural artifacts.

"Our presence here is not innocent, and our history has been written... with deeply painful pages," Macron said during a remembrance ceremony at the former royal palace in the capital.

"Only you can make this journey of forgiveness," he said after a visit of the palace with Princess Fenosa Ralandison Ratsimamanga.

"But we are creating the conditions for it, by making it possible... to mourn what is no longer."

Macron highlighted the planned return of various cultural items taken from the island by its French occupiers, including the skull of a king decapitated in 1897 by French troops and taken to France as a trophy.

The fifth-largest island in the world, known for its rich biodiversity and natural resources but burdened by high poverty, Madagascar was under French colonial rule from the 19th century until 1960, when it gained full independence.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাচী প্রকোশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।

ফোনঃ ০২-৪৭৮৮৩১২৫০

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তারিখঃ ২০/০৪/২০২৫ টি।

সারক নং- ০১.০১.০৬৭১.৮০৩.১৪.০৮০.২০/১৮০

"ফেরিয়াটের ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (১৮তম আহবান)"

০১	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	০৬ (ইজারা) বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২০২০-২০২৪
০২	ইজারার বিবরণ	বরিশাল সড়ক বিভাগাধীন বরিশাল (বেরোপুর)-চুম্বক-বাটুফল সড়কের ৯ম কিলোমিটারে অবস্থিত নেহাটোপ ফেরিয়াটের ট্রেল আবাসের জন্য ইজারা প্রদান।
০৩	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	৩ (তিনি) বছর কোটেশন মুদ্রণ।
০৪	ইজারা কোটেশনের স্থিতিল মুদ্রণ	টা ১,০০,০০ এবং ইজারা ট্রেল চার্ট।
০৫	চামানতের টাকার পরিমাণ	উচ্চত মুদ্রের ১০% (শক্তব্য মুদ্রা মুদ্রণ প্রাপ্তি) প্রাপ্তি।
০৬	ইজারা কোটেশন বিবরে শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/০৪/২০২৪ চুক্তির তারিখ বিবরে ৫,০০ টাকার প্রাপ্তি।
০৭	মুদ্রণ অনুমতি দাতারা কোটেশন প্রদর্শন শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/০৪/২০২৪ চুক্তির তারিখ প্রদর্শন মুদ্রণ ১২,০০ টাকার প্রাপ্তি।
০৮	ইজারা তাকে অঙ্গ প্রদর্শন যোগ্যতা	ভ্যাট ও অ্যাক্সেস সম্বিধানের প্রতিক্রিয়া প্রদর্শন করে আবাস প্রদর্শন করে।
০৯	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রয়োজন যাবে	বিজ্ঞয় করিমশাহ, বরিশাল / জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল / নির্বাচী প্রকোশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল / জেলা / বাটুফল / প্রিয়াজপুর / প্রিয়াল, সড়ক ভূমি, ডেজান্ড, তারিখ।
১০	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুদ্রণ অবস্থায় প্রযুক্তি করা হবে	(ক) নির্বাচী প্রকোশলী কার্যালয়, সওজ, বরিশাল জেলা, বরিশাল। (খ) অভিযান প্রকোশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। (গ) নির্বাচী প্রকোশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। (ঘ) জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল।
১১	ইজারা কোটেশন মুদ্রণ মুদ্রণ করার জন্য প্রযুক্তি করা হবে	স্থান নির্বাচী প্রকোশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। তারিখঃ ১৫/০৪/২০২৫ টি। সময়ঃ বেলা ০৩.০০ ঘটকাট।
১২	(ক) ইজারা আজ্ঞানকৃতি যে কোন সময় মুদ্রণ করার জন্য কোটেশন বিবরে ক্রমত সংরক্ষণ করেন। (খ) যদি কোনও অনিয়ন্ত্রিত প্রযুক্তি তারিখে ইজারা কোটেশন প্রযুক্তি দ্বারা না যাবে, তাহলে প্রযুক্তি কার্য দিবসে একই সময়ে এবং (ঘ) ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে প্রযুক্তি করার জন্য প্রযুক্তি করার ক্ষেত্রে। (ঘ) এই ইজারা কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি RHD ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://www.rhd.gov.bd">www.rhd.gov.bd</a> এর মাধ্যমে দেখা যেতে পারে।	



## Crowds pay final respects to Pope

REUTERS, Vatican City

St Peter's Basilica opened its doors again on Thursday after a brief closure in the early hours to welcome crowds of worshippers from around the world lining up to pay their final respects to Pope Francis.

Some 50,000 people have flooded the basilica to pay homage to the late pontiff since his body was laid out on Wednesday in an open coffin ahead of his funeral on Saturday, Vatican officials said.

Francis died aged 88 on Monday morning in his rooms at the Vatican's Santa Marta guesthouse, having only recently left hospital after five weeks being treated for double pneumonia.

"He was a wonderful pope," said Rome resident Alessandra Caccamo, as she queued outside the Vatican. "I'm going to miss him so much, because it's like I've lost a piece of me."

Francis, who was from Argentina and was the first non-European pope in 1,300 years, had an often turbulent 12 year reign in which he repeatedly clashed with Church traditionalists and championed the poor and marginalised.

On Saturday, over 170 delegations including heads of state and government including US President Donald Trump are expected in St Peter's Square for the funeral ceremony, with millions more watching on television across the globe.

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