

No truce in India-Pakistan disinfo war

Facebook, X still awash with misrepresented footage of attacks that killed 60 people

AFP, New Delhi

India and Pakistan have announced a ceasefire after coming close to all-out conflict, but on social media citizens on both sides are vying to control public perceptions by peddling disinformation. Platforms such as Facebook and X are still awash with misrepresented footage of the attacks that killed at least 60 people and sent thousands fleeing. AFP fact-checkers have debunked many of the clips, which actually show the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the war in Ukraine.

Indian and Pakistani media outlets have also amplified misinformation, including false or unverifiable claims of military

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PHOTO: REUTERS

People hold placards during a protest calling for fair elections, a day after the midterm elections, in Manila, Philippines, yesterday. Former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte has been re-elected as mayor of the city of Davao, the family's stronghold, despite being imprisoned thousands of miles away in The Hague for alleged crimes against humanity.

GENERATION GROWING UP IN GAZA
WHO warns of lasting impact of hunger

Says malnutrition rates rising as blockade continues

AGENCIES

Malnutrition rates are rising in Gaza and hunger could have lasting impacts on "an entire generation", the World Health Organisation's representative for the Occupied Palestinian Territory said yesterday. Rik Peepkorn said he had seen children in clinics who looked years younger than their age, reports Reuters. "Without enough nutritious food, clean water and access to health care, an entire generation will be permanently affected," Peepkorn told a press briefing by video link from Deir al-Balah, warning of poor health, stunting and impaired cognitive development. Medical charity Medecins du Monde warned yesterday, accusing Israel of using hunger as "a weapon of war". Israel halted all aid from entering the war-ravaged Palestinian territory on March 2, days before resuming its offensive triggered by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel, reports AFP. The United Nations and aid agencies have repeatedly warned of a growing humanitarian catastrophe for the roughly



2.4 million people in Gaza, amid dwindling supplies of everything from fuel and medicine to food and clean water.

US President Donald Trump on Monday left for Saudi Arabia on what he called a "historic" tour of the Middle East that will mix urgent diplomacy on Gaza and Iran with huge business deals. Meanwhile, Israel's military said it struck a Gaza hospital housing Hamas members, in a raid yesterday that, according to Hamas, killed a journalist being treated after an Israeli attack last month.

The strike, which Hamas said happened at dawn, ended a brief pause in fighting to allow the release of a US-Israeli hostage. The military said in a Telegram post that "significant Hamas terrorists" had been "operating from within a command and control centre" at Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza's main city. The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the strike killed two people and wounded several others, while the Hamas government media office said journalist Hassan Aslih was "assassinated".

US, KSA ink \$142bn arms deal

AFP, Riyadh

The US and Saudi Arabia signed a mammoth arms deal yesterday that the White House called the largest "in history" amid a raft of agreements inked by Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh. "The US and Saudi Arabia signed the largest defence sales agreement in history - nearly \$142 billion, providing Saudi Arabia with state-of-the-art warfighting equipment," the White House said.

UKRAINE CEASEFIRE TALKS
Putin 'doesn't dare' meet Zelensky in Istanbul: EU

AFP, Copenhagen

The European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said yesterday she didn't think Russian President Vladimir Putin would turn up for talks in Turkey this week with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The meeting set for Thursday in Istanbul would be the first direct negotiations between Ukrainian and Russian officials since the early months of Moscow's invasion in 2022.

Zelensky has urged Putin to personally attend the talks that the Kremlin leader himself suggested, but Moscow has so far declined to respond to the invitation.

"I think it's a good move if they sit down," Kallas told a democracy conference in Copenhagen, adding: "But I don't think he dares, Putin."

"It has been over two months since Ukraine agreed to an unconditional ceasefire," she said.

"Russia is clearly playing games, trying to find time, hoping that time is on their side. We haven't seen any good efforts or good signs from their side."

Ukraine said yesterday that a Putin no-show would be a clear sign that Moscow is not serious about peace.

China offers LatAm, Caribbean billions

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday vowed to deepen ties with Latin America at a time of "bloc confrontation" as he addressed regional leaders in Beijing.

Leaders and officials from Latin America and the Caribbean have descended on Beijing this week for the China-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Forum.

Beijing has stepped up economic and political cooperation with Latin American nations in recent years. Addressing leaders yesterday, Xi hailed China's ties with the region.

"Although China lies far from the Latin American and Caribbean region, the two sides have a time-honoured history of friendly exchanges," Xi said at the opening ceremony.

victories that experts say have exacerbated tensions and contributed to a flood of hate speech. "It's complicated to establish the military facts because, in addition to the reality of strikes that are difficult to ascertain, there's a communication war going on," said General Dominique Trinquand, an international relations analyst and former head of the French military mission to the United Nations.

Disinformation peaked when India launched deadly air strikes on Wednesday targeting "terrorist camps" in Pakistan, two weeks after a deadly attack on the Indian-run side of disputed Kashmir.

New Delhi blames Islamabad for backing the April 22 attack near the tourist town of Pahalgam, which killed 26 people - almost all of them Hindu men. Pakistan denies the claim. After the first round of Indian air strikes, the Pakistani military shared footage that had previously circulated in reports about a 2023 Israeli air strike in Gaza. The clip quickly appeared on television and social media but was later retracted by numerous media outlets, including AFP.

AI-generated imagery has also muddied the waters, including a video that purportedly shows a Pakistan Army general saying the country lost two of its aircraft. AFP fact-checkers found the clip was altered from a 2024 press conference.

"We have seen a new wave of AI-based content in both video and still images due to increased access to deepfake tools," said Joyoyot Pal, an associate professor in the School of Information at the University of Michigan.

CONFLICTS, DISASTERS

Record 83m people internally displaced worldwide: monitor

AFP, Geneva

Raging conflicts, disasters and worsening climate change displaced tens of millions of people within their own countries last year, a new record, monitors said yesterday.

An unprecedented 83.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs) were registered in 2024 - equivalent to the entire population of Germany - amid mass displacement from conflicts in places like Sudan and Gaza, as well as floods and giant cyclones.



That is more than double the number from just six years ago, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said in their annual joint report on internal displacement.

"Internal displacement is where conflict, poverty and climate collide, hitting the most vulnerable the hardest," IDMC chief Alexandra Bilak said in a statement.

The monitors highlighted that nearly 90 percent of the world's IDPs, or 73.5 million people, were displaced by conflict and violence - an 80 percent increase since 2018.

Some 10 countries each counted more than three million IDPs from conflict and violence at the end of 2024, with civil war-ravaged Sudan alone home to a staggering 11.6 million IDPs - the most ever recorded in a single country, the report showed.

Some two million people, nearly the entire population of the Gaza Strip, was also displaced at the end of last year, even before fresh mass displacements since Israel ended a two-month ceasefire on March 18, ramping up its bombardment of the Palestinian territory.

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আপামী ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরে বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট, হাইকোর্ট বিভাগের ৩ (তিন) ক্যাটাগরিতে যথা (ক) পণ্য ও সেবা সরবরাহ (খ) সেবামত ও সংরক্ষণ এবং (গ) সম্পদ সংরক্ষণ/ক্রয় বাতে পণ্য/সেবা সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত প্রকৃত "সরবরাহকারী/ ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নতুন তালিকাভুক্তি/তালিকা নবায়নের জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে সীলগালায়ুক্ত বামে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Defence
Ganabhaban Complex
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka 1207
Memo no: 23.00.0000.170.07.055.25.461 Date: 13 May 2025
e-Tender Notice
This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal:

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
www.bpdb.gov.bd
Directorate of Purchase
WAPDA Building (10th Floor)
Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 02223383081
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpd.gov.bd
e-Tender Notice
The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01768015538).