

INTERNATIONAL

9 children among 37 killed in Gaza

Trump says Gaza truce is possible within a week

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli forces killed 37 people in the devastated territory yesterday, including at least nine children who died in strikes.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP 35 people were killed in seven Israeli drone and air strikes in various locations, and two others by Israeli fire while waiting for food aid in the Netzarim zone in central Gaza.

He said the dead included three children who were killed in an air strike on a home in Jabalia, in northern Gaza.

Bassal said at least six more children died in a neighbourhood in the northeast of Gaza City, including some in an air strike near a school where displaced people were sheltering.

The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment by yesterday evening.

Restrictions on media in Gaza and difficulties in accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify the tolls and details provided by rescuers.

AFP images showed mourners weeping over the bodies of seven people, including at least two children, wrapped in white shrouds and blankets at Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City.



Video footage filmed from southern Israel showed smoke rising over northern Gaza after blasts.

Other AFP footage filmed in Gaza City showed a cloud of smoke rising from buildings after a strike.

After claiming victory in a 12-day war against Iran that ended with a ceasefire on June 24, the Israeli military said it would refocus on its offensive in Gaza, where Palestinian militants still hold Israeli hostages.

The killings came a day after President Donald Trump said he believes a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hamas militants may be reached within a week.

"I think it's close. I just spoke to some of the people involved," Trump said. "We think within the next week we're going to get a ceasefire."

Qatar yesterday said that it and fellow mediators the United States and Egypt were engaging with Israel and Hamas to build on momentum from the ceasefire with Iran and work towards a Gaza truce.

"If we don't utilise this window of opportunity and this momentum, it's an opportunity lost amongst many in the near past. We don't want to see that again," said Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari.



Anti-government protesters rally to demand the removal of Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office at Victory Monument in Bangkok yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Suicide blast kills 16 soldiers in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

A suicide attack claimed by the Pakistani Taliban killed 16 soldiers and wounded more than two dozen people, including civilians, local government officials and police officers told AFP yesterday.

"A suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a military convoy," said a local government official in the North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

He said 16 soldiers were killed, raising a previous death toll of 13.

"The explosion also caused the roofs of two houses to collapse, injuring six children," a police officer posted in the district told AFP.

The attack was claimed by the suicide bomber wing of the Hafiz Gul Bahadur armed group, a faction of the Pakistan Taliban.

Pakistan has witnessed a sharp rise in violence in its regions bordering Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power in Kabul in 2021, with Islamabad accusing its western neighbour of allowing its soil to be used for attacks against Pakistan – a claim the Taliban denies.

Around 290 people, mostly security officials, have been killed in attacks since the start of the year by armed groups fighting the government in both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Step down Shinawatra!

Thousands take to the streets demanding Thai PM's resignation after leaked phone call with Cambodian leader

AFP, Bangkok

Thousands of anti-government protesters rallied in the Thai capital of Bangkok yesterday, demanding Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra resign after a leaked diplomatic phone call stirred public anger.

A Cambodian elder statesman leaked a call meant to soothe a border spat between the two nations in which Paetongtarn called him "uncle" and referred to a Thai military commander as her "opponent".

A key party abandoned Paetongtarn's coalition, accusing the 38-year-old dynastic premier of kowtowing to Cambodia and undermining Thailand's military, leaving her teetering with a slim parliamentary majority.

About 10,000 demonstrators jammed roads ringing the capital's Victory Monument, waving Thai flags and placards reading "Evil PM, get out".

One speaker took to the stage and shouted, "PM, you committed treason!"

The crowd was mostly senior-aged and led by veteran activists of the "Yellow Shirt" movement, which helped oust Paetongtarn's father, Thaksin, in the 2000s.

One of Thaksin's former allies, now among his harshest critics, was also a key organiser.

"I'm here to protect Thailand's sovereignty and to say the PM is unfit," said 70-year-old protester Seri Sawangmue, who travelled overnight by bus from the country's north to attend.

"After I heard the leaked call, I knew I couldn't trust her," he told AFP. "I've lived through many political crises, and I know where this is going. She's willing to give up our sovereignty."

Thailand has seen decades of clashes between the bitterly opposed "Yellow Shirts", who defend the monarchy and military, and the Thaksin-backing "Red Shirts", considered by their opponents a threat to the traditional social order.

Jamnong Kalana, 64, said she was once a "Red Shirt" but had changed her colours and was demanding the resignation of Paetongtarn, leader of the Pheu Thai party.

"I feel full of pain when I see a fellow Thai who doesn't love the country like I do," she said.

MAKE-OR-BREAK COURT CASES



Mass protests have been uncommon in Thailand since 2021, when youth driven demonstrations calling for monarchy reform ended with many leaders convicted under the country's strict lese-majeste laws.

Authorities said more than 1,000 police and 100 city officials had been deployed to the protest, which remained peaceful on Saturday afternoon.

The 62-year-old protester Santhiphum Jamjit was overcome with emotion.

"Our ancestors shed blood, sweat and tears for this land, but now politicians are ready to give it away for personal gain," the former bureaucrat tearfully told AFP.

Paetongtarn was visiting Thailand's flood-hit north, but before departing Bangkok, she told reporters, "It's their right to protest, as long as it's peaceful."

The prime minister has been battered by controversy and abandoned by her largest backer, the Bhumjaithai Party, after her phone call with Cambodia's ex-leader Hun Sen was leaked earlier this month.

Tensions between the countries have soared after a border dispute boiled over into violence last month, which killed one Cambodian soldier.

Thailand's military has staged a dozen coups since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932, and politicians are usually careful not to antagonise the generals.

After calling a border region military commander her "opponent", Paetongtarn gave a contrite press conference where she issued a public apology flanked by military officials in a show of unity.

Her remaining coalition partners have not yet backed out of their pact.

But next week both Paetongtarn and her father face legal battles that could reshape Thailand's political landscape.

On Tuesday, the Constitutional Court will decide whether to take up a petition by senators seeking her removal over alleged unprofessionalism.

That same day, her father is set to stand trial on royal defamation charges linked to decade-old remarks to South Korean media.

Paetongtarn took office less than a year ago after her predecessor was disqualified by a court order, and her father returned from exile after 15 years.

Pakistan flash floods kill 32

AFP, Peshawar

Heavy rain and flash flooding across Pakistan have killed 32 people including 16 children since the start of the monsoon season this week, disaster management officials said.

Flash floods and roof collapses over the past 36 hours have claimed the lives of 19 people, eight of them children, a statement Saturday by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial disaster management authority said.

Of the total fatalities, 13 were reported from northwestern Swat Valley.

At least 13 people have also been killed in the eastern province of Punjab since Wednesday, the area's disaster management authority said.

Eight of the fatalities were children, who died when walls and roofs collapsed during heavy rain. Flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has also damaged 56 houses, the disaster authority said.

The national meteorological service warned that the risk of heavy rain and possible flash floods will remain high until at least Tuesday.

Last month, at least 32 people were killed in severe storms in the South Asian nation, which experienced several extreme weather events in the spring.

Pakistan is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, and its 240 million inhabitants are facing extreme weather events with increasing frequency.

Rwanda, DR Congo sign peace deal

AFP, Washington

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have signed a peace agreement Washington to end fighting that has killed thousands, with the two countries pledging to pull back support for guerrillas – and President Donald Trump boasting of securing mineral wealth.

"Today, the violence and destruction comes to an end, and the entire region begins a new chapter of hope and opportunity," Trump said as he welcomed the two nations' foreign ministers to the White House on Friday. "This is a wonderful day."

The agreement comes after the M23, an ethnic Tutsi rebel force linked to Rwanda, sprinted across the mineral-rich east of the DRC this year, seizing vast territory including the key city of Goma.

21-yr-old raped

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said efforts were underway to arrest the accused.

A video of the survivor was also recorded and later circulated online.

A relative corroborated the details to The Daily Star.

The woman underwent medical tests at Cumilla Medical College Hospital yesterday, the OC said. Hospital Director Dr Masud Parvez confirmed that tests were done but declined to share the results.

Meanwhile in Mymensingh, two men were sent to jail yesterday for raping a sixth grader.

The accused, Md Humayun, 30, and Md Kawsar Miah, 24, dragged the 13 year-old girl away on her way to school on Wednesday morning. They took her to a shop approximately 30 kilometres from her home, raped her, and threatened to kill her if she spoke about the incident, according to law enforcers.

The girl informed her family after returning home. When the news spread, local influentials initially attempted to settle the matter through social arbitration.

The child's father later

filed a complaint with Ishwarganj Police Station. Police arrested Humayun on Friday night, while Rab detained Kawsar on Saturday evening.

Md Obaidur Rahman, OC of Ishwarganj Police Station, said both men were produced before a court yesterday, which sent them to jail. The child was sent to hospital for medical tests.

In Noakhali, madrasa director Shakhawat Ullah, 38, was arrested for the attempted rape of a sixth grader in the female dormitory of the institution.

According to the case statement, he attempted to rape the girl early Friday while she was sleeping. His wife, who was in another room, woke up and began screaming, forcing him to halt the assault. In the morning, locals caught Shakhawat, beat him, and handed him over to police.

The child's mother filed a case yesterday, after which he was shown arrested, said Mohammad Firoz Uddin, OC of Chatkhil Police Station.

(Our correspondents from Cumilla, Mymensingh, and Noakhali contributed to this report.)

Protests for removal of KMP chief continue

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alleging Sukanta was freed at the order of the KMP commissioner and several other senior officers.

They issued an ultimatum on Thursday night, demanding the commissioner's removal by midday yesterday.

Rumi Rahman, a spokesperson for the Khulna chapter of SAD, said, "The law and order situation in Khulna has deteriorated drastically since Zulfikar Ali Haider took over as commissioner. He takes no action against influential individuals. We demand his immediate removal."

KMP sources confirmed that SI Sukanta was arrested in Chuadanga on Thursday and has been sent to jail following a court order.

Meanwhile, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam was confined to the Khulna Press

Club in the evening by student activists demanding the the KMP commissioner's removal.

He arrived at the Khulna Press Club around 5:45pm. Upon hearing the news, around 150 to 200 SAD members went from the KMP office to the press club and blocked its main gate.

Around 7:00pm, Sajidul Islam Bappy, central joint coordinator of the student movement, announced, "We have been protesting for three days, yet the home adviser has not responded. If there is any discussion, it must be with all of us. We will not allow a handful of people to go upstairs [at the press club] and negotiate. The press secretary, please let the chief adviser know about our demands. Otherwise, we will not let you leave the premises."

Journalists from the club

repeatedly requested them to let the press secretary leave, but the protesters would not budge.

Then, around 7:45pm, a meeting took place between the protesters and the press secretary at the Humayun Kabir Balu Auditorium of the press club.

A large number of army and navy personnel were deployed around the press club.


Around 8:00pm, Shafiqul was escorted out under heavy security provided by the joint forces.

Later, in a Facebook post, he wrote, "We came to Khulna this afternoon for a day-long trip. I was with two of my press team colleagues. We held a press briefing at the Khulna DC office. After the press meet, we visited Khulna University. Later we stopped at the Khulna Press Club, which was set ablaze during

the anti-Hasina mass uprising.

"When the KPC officials were showing us some of the torched rooms of the club, some 200 student protesters came to its compound with a procession. They were shouting slogans, demanding the resignation of the Khulna Metropolitan Commissioner. I heard from the KPC journalists that they had been staging protests over the last three days.

"The protesters wanted to meet me to lodge their complaint. After my meeting with the KPC officials, I came downstairs to meet them. We patiently heard their complaints and assured them that we would convey their message to the concerned authorities. We had tea and biscuits. After about 30 minutes we left the KPC for Dhaka."



ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ওজোপাডিকো)

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ফোন নংঃ ০২৪৭৭৭৮৩২০৮, xen.kushtial@wzpdcl.gov.bd

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
Date: 25-6-25

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, Sales & Distribution Division-1, WZPDCL, Kushtia for the execution of following works, which will be available at the National e-GP System Portal website (www.eprocure.gov.bd) from 30-06-25; 9:00am.

Sl.	Tender ID	Invitation reference	Name of tender
1.	1128410	27.22.5079.301.55. 001.2025.617; Date: 25/06/25	11/0.4 KV Power Distribution Line Shifting Work for the purpose of road expansion along Bheramara-Daulotpur Highway

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.



S. M. Fazle Rabbi
Executive Engineer
S & D-1, WZPDCL
Kushtia

GD-1476