

# Israel kills 23, including three children, in Gaza

## Trump says Gaza truce is possible within a week

AGENCIES

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli forces killed at least 23 people in the war-stricken territory yesterday, including at least three children who died when a house was struck. "At least 23 dead and dozens of wounded were taken (to hospitals) after Israeli firing and raids" across Gaza, civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

Among the casualties were three children who were killed in an air strike on a home in Jabalia, northern Gaza. AFP video footage from Gaza City showed relatives weeping over the bodies of children killed in nearby Jabalia.

Bassal said the children were among 21 people killed in six air strikes by drones and planes across the territory.

He said two other people were killed by Israeli fire while waiting for food aid in the Netzarim zone in central Gaza.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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.

Trump, at an Oval Office event celebrating a Congo-Rwanda accord, told reporters that he believes a ceasefire is close. He said he had

been just been talking to some of the people involved in trying to reach a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas in the Palestinian enclave.

Hamas has said it is willing to free remaining hostages in Gaza under any deal to end the war, while Israel says it can only end if Hamas is disarmed and dismantled. Hamas refuses to lay down its arms.

Gaza's health ministry says Israel's post Oct 7 military assault has killed over 56,000 Palestinians. The assault has also caused a hunger crisis, internally displaced Gaza's entire population and prompted accusations of genocide at the International Court of Justice and of war crimes at the International Criminal Court. Israel denies the accusations.

Interest in resolving the Gaza conflict has picked up steam in the wake of the US and Israeli bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities. A ceasefire to the 12-day Israel-Iran conflict went into effect early this 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."

He did not say who he has been talking to, but he has told reporters he was in near-daily contact with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the Israel-Iran conflict.



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 in 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.

The deal – negotiated through Qatar since before Trump took office – does not explicitly address the gains of the M23 in the area torn by decades of on-off war but calls for Rwanda to end "defensive measures" it has taken.

Rwanda has denied directly supporting the M23 but has demanded an end to another armed group, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which was established by ethnic Hutus linked to the massacres of Tutsis in the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

The agreement calls for the "neutralisation" of the FDLR, with Rwandan Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe saying the "irreversible and verifiable end to state support" to the Hutu militants should be the "first order of business."

The process would be "accompanied by a lifting of Rwanda's defensive measures," Nduhungirehe said at a signing ceremony at the State Department.

But he added: "We must acknowledge that there is a great deal of uncertainty in our region, and beyond, because many previous agreements have not been implemented."

His Congolese counterpart, Therese Kayikwamba Wagner, highlighted the agreement's call for respecting state sovereignty.

"It offers a rare chance to turn the page, not just with words but with real change on the ground. Some wounds will heal, but they will never fully disappear," she said.



Images of Iranian military commanders and scientists killed during Israeli strikes are displayed at Enghelab (Revolution) Square as trucks carrying their coffins drive past during their funeral procession in the capital Tehran, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ৱেস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ওজোপাডিকো)

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### e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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Kushtia

GD-1476