

SWEIDA CLASHES

US declares Syria-Israel ceasefire

AFP, Sweida

Syrian interior ministry forces began deploying in Sweida yesterday under a US-brokered deal intended to avert further Israeli military intervention in the Druze-majority province. Israel had bombed defence ministry forces in both Sweida and Damascus earlier this week to force their withdrawal after they were accused of summary executions and other abuses against Druze civilians during their brief deployment in the southern province.

More than 700 people have been killed in Sweida since Sunday as sectarian clashes between the Druze and Sunni Bedouin drew in the Islamist-led government, Israel and armed tribes from other parts of Syria.

The office of interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa announced an “immediate ceasefire” in Sweida, which it called on “all parties to fully respect”.

But AFP correspondents in and around the city reported gunfire and sporadic rocket fire and explosions as Druze fighters battled armed Bedouin who had seized some neighbourhoods on Friday.

The Observatory, a Britain-based war monitor, said the armed volunteers had been deployed with the support of the Islamist-led government although an AFP journalist said security personnel were manning checkpoints yesterday to prevent further reinforcements getting through.

The deal between the Islamist-government and Israel was announced by Washington early yesterday.

The International Committee for the Red Cross warned that health facilities were overwhelmed, with power cuts impeding the preservation of bodies in overflowing morgues.

The International Organization for Migration said 79,339 civilians had fled the fighting.



This aerial view shows smoke rising in the city of Sweida in southern Syria’s Druze majority province.

PHOTO: AFP

BOMBSHELL REPORT ON EPSTEIN FILES

Trump sues Murdoch, WSJ

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump sued media magnate Rupert Murdoch and The Wall Street Journal for at least \$10 billion Friday over publication of a bombshell article on his friendship with the infamous alleged sex trafficker of underage girls, Jeffrey Epstein.

The defamation lawsuit, filed in federal court in Miami, saw the 79-year-old Republican hitting back at a scandal threatening to cause serious political damage.

“We have just filed a POWERHOUSE Lawsuit against everyone involved in publishing the false, malicious, defamatory, FAKE NEWS ‘article’ in the useless ‘rag’ that is, The Wall Street Journal,” Trump posted on Truth Social late Friday.

The Journal reported Thursday that in 2003, the then-real estate magnate wrote a suggestive birthday letter to Epstein, illustrated with a naked woman and alluding to a shared “secret.”

The lawsuit, which also names two reporters, the Dow Jones corporation, and Murdoch’s parent

company News Corp. as defendants, claims that no such letter exists and that the paper intended to malign Trump with a story that has now been viewed by hundreds of millions of people.



“And given the timing of the Defendants’ article, which shows their malicious intent behind it, the overwhelming financial and reputational harm suffered by President Trump will continue to multiply,” it said.

Dow Jones, the Journal’s longtime publisher, responded to Trump’s libel suit Friday saying it is standing by the story.

“We have full confidence in the rigor and accuracy of our reporting,

and will vigorously defend against any lawsuit,” a Dow Jones spokesperson said in a statement.

In another bid to dampen outrage among his own supporters about an alleged government cover-up of Epstein’s activities and 2019 death, Trump ordered US Attorney General Pam Bondi to seek the unsealing of grand jury testimony from the prosecution against the disgraced financier.

In a filing in New York, Bondi cited “extensive public interest” for the unusual request to release what is typically secret testimony.

Epstein, a longtime friend of Trump and multiple high-profile men, was found hanging dead in a New York prison cell while awaiting trial on charges that he sexually exploited dozens of underage girls at his homes in New York and Florida.

The case sparked conspiracy theories, especially among Trump’s far-right voters, about an alleged international cabal of wealthy pedophiles. Epstein’s death — declared a suicide — before he could face trial supercharged the narrative.

INDO-PAK ‘WAR’

Trump says 5 jets shot down

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Friday up to five jets were shot down during recent India-Pakistan hostilities.

Trump, who made his remarks at a dinner with some Republican US lawmakers at the White House, did not specify which side’s jets he was referring to.

“In fact, planes were being shot out of the air. Five, five, four or five, but I think five jets were shot down actually,” Trump said without elaborating.

Trump has repeatedly claimed credit for the ceasefire between India and Pakistan that he announced on social media on May 10 after Washington held talks with both sides.

China starts building dam on Brahmaputra

AFP, Beijing

China started building a mega-dam yesterday on a river running through Tibet and India, with Premier Li Qiang attending the commencement ceremony, state media said.

Beijing approved the project in December on the river — known as Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and Brahmaputra in India — linking it to the country’s carbon neutrality targets and economic goals in the Tibet region.

“The electricity generated will be primarily transmitted to other regions for consumption, while also meeting local power needs in Tibet,” state news agency Xinhua reported after the groundbreaking ceremony in southeastern Tibet’s Nyingchi.

Once built, the dam could dwarf the record-breaking Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in central China — and have a potentially serious impact on millions of people downstream in India and Bangladesh.

The project will entail constructing five hydropower stations, with the total investment estimated to be around 1.2 trillion yuan (\$167.1 billion), Xinhua said.

India said in January it had raised concerns with China about the project in Tibet, saying it will “monitor and take necessary measures to protect our interests”.

China “has been urged to ensure that the interests of the downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in



upstream areas”, India’s foreign ministry said then.

In December, Beijing’s foreign ministry said that the project would not have any “negative impact” downstream, adding that China “will also maintain communication with countries at the lower reaches” of the river.

Besides downstream concerns, environmentalists have also warned about the irreversible impact of such mega projects in the ecologically sensitive Tibetan plateau.

Both India and China, neighbours and rival Asian powers, share thousands of kilometres of disputed borders, where tens of thousands of soldiers are posted on either side.

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Start judicial probe into deaths in Gopalganj

FROM PAGE 12

citizens’ safety, constitutional rights, and fundamental human rights.

Citing media reports, HRFB noted that violence broke out following a political rally organised by the National Citizen Party (NCP) at Gopalganj Municipal Park on Wednesday. After the rally, a section of a local political party reportedly attacked the gathering. The situation escalated, and members of law enforcement allegedly used “excessive force”, including opening fire on the crowd.

As a result, five individuals — Dipto Saha, 25, Ramzan Kazi, 18, Sohel Molla, 41, Imon, 24, and later Ramzan Munshi, 28, who died from gunshot wounds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on July 18 — lost their lives. Many others, some critically injured, are undergoing treatment in various hospitals.

HRFB stated that the decision to fire on citizens in public is not only inhumane but also a violation of Article 31 of the Constitution of Bangladesh and international human rights standards.

“Such disproportionate use of force is unjustifiable under any circumstances and reflects a serious lack of state accountability,” it said.

Recent footage circulating on social media clearly shows law enforcement officers firing toward the crowd, the statement noted.

Meanwhile, the inspector general of police has claimed that police did not use lethal weapons.

On the other hand, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said the military intervened “to bring the situation under control” and “was compelled to use force in self-defence,” but did not clarify whether any lethal weapons were used.

HRFB also demanded that those arrested in the aftermath of the incident be promptly produced before the court and be treated in accordance with legal procedures, ensuring that no innocent individuals are harassed.

It also urged reconsideration of any prolonged curfew or indefinite restrictions on public transport and movement, which could paralyse daily life.

Emphasising that each death and incident of torture is unacceptable and must be addressed under existing laws, HRFB referred to a media report where a victim’s family claimed they were forced to bury the body without a post-mortem due to the lack of cooperation from hospital and police authorities.

HRFB termed this allegation alarming and said it reflects serious negligence and breach of legal obligations.

HRFB called for the immediate formation of a judicial probe into the deaths and the overall incident, including a review of the failure to ensure safety at the political rally and a thorough investigation into its root causes.

The organisation urged all parties to act with restraint and responsibility to protect the country’s

stability, peace, and democratic environment.

It stressed that incidents of violence, excessive force, and fatalities pose serious threats to democracy, human rights, and public safety.

HRFB demanded a full, impartial, and fair investigation; justice for the victims; compensation for the affected; and necessary steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future.

The statement was signed by Dr Hameeda Hossain, Advocate Sultana Kamal, and Raja Devasish Roy, all experts at HRFB; Advocate ZI Khan Panna, chairperson of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and acting convener of HRFB; Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddoyog; Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST); Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development; Saleh Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu Social Welfare Society; Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum; Dr Iftekharuzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB); Dr Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP); Shamsul Huda, executive director of the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD); Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Sardar Jahangir Hossain, executive director of Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF); Shipon Kumar

Robidas, general secretary of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDEFM); Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS); Dewan Zaman, executive director of FAIR; Pallab Chakma, executive director of Kapaeng Foundation; Rokeya Rafique Baby, executive director of Kormojibi Nari; Geeta Das, president of Naripokkho; Abdus Sattar Dulal, president of the National Alliance of Disabled People’s Organisations (NADPO); and Ashrafun Nahar Misti, executive director of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation.

Rush on

FROM PAGE 12

He also submitted three additional applications for dealing, believed to involve refinancing, on other London properties.

Shafiat Sobhan filed two such applications in the past year, suggesting attempted sales, refinancing, or ownership transfers under legal scrutiny.

One of these properties is an £8 million mansion in Virginia Water, Surrey, according to The Guardian. Shayan and Shahryar Rahman submitted three applications for dealing as well.

Among these is the £35 million apartment in Mayfair, jointly owned by the two, which was frozen last month by the NCA, indicating ongoing legal intervention.

All five are currently under investigation by Bangladesh’s Anti-Corruption Commission.

<div><div></div><div><div>ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি)</div><div>আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, মৌলভীবাজার।</div><div>www.tcb.gov.bd</div></div></div>			
০১টি ০৭ সীটের (MPV) গাড়ী ভাড়া করণের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (অভ্যন্তরীণ)			
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়	
২	এজেন্সি	ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি)	
৩	ক্রয়কারীর নাম	উপ-পরিচালক (অফিস প্রধান), টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, মৌলভীবাজার।	
৪	ক্রয়কারীর কোড	প্রযোজ্য নহে	
৫	ক্রয়কারীর জেলা	মৌলভীবাজার	
৬	দরপত্র আদানকৃত পণ্য	০১টি ০৭ সীটের (MPV) গাড়ী ভাড়া করণ	
৭	আদানকারীর রেফারেন্স নং	২৬.০৫.০০০০.০০৫.৯৯.১৬৯.২২-৮৩২	
৮	তারিখ	১৭-০৬-২০২৫খ্রি.	
মূল তথ্য			
৯	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (অভ্যন্তরীণ)	
তহবিল তথ্য			
১০	বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস	টিসিবি’র নিজস্ব তহবিল	
বিশেষ তথ্য			
১১	প্যাকেজ নং	টিসিবি/মৌলভীবাজার/ভাড়া কৃত গাড়ী ২০২৫-২০২৬	
১২	প্যাকেজের নাম	দায়িত্ব কালের প্রয়োজনে ০১টি গাড়ী ভাড়া করণ	
১৩	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২০-০৭-২০২৫	
১৪	দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ০৩-০৮-২০২৫	সময়: বিকাল ০৫:০০ টা
১৫	দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউল দাখিল করার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ০৪-০৮-২০২৫	সময়: বেলা ১২:০০ টা
১৬	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ০৪-০৮-২০২৫	সময়: অপরাহ্ন ২২:১৫ টা
১৭	অফিস(সমূহ)-এর নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঠিকানা	
সেবার দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউল জান পার্শে বর্ণিত ব্যাংক ও অফিস থেকে ক্রয় করা যাবে।		(১) টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, মৌলভীবাজার। (২) পূর্বালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি, শেরপুর শাখা, মৌলভীবাজার।	
- দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউল গ্রহণের স্থান		টিসিবি’র অফিস কক্ষ, টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, মৌলভীবাজার।	
- দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউল উন্মুক্তকরণ/খোলার স্থান		টিসিবি’র অফিস প্রধানের কক্ষ, টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, মৌলভীবাজার।	
দরপত্রদাখিলের জন্য তথ্য			
১৮	দরপত্রদাখিলের যোগ্যতা	প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। বিস্তারিত শর্তসমূহ দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ করা আছে।	
১৯	সেবার সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	০১টি ০৭ সীটের MPV গাড়ী (Toyota Noah square/ Mitsubishi Expander/ Hyundai Staria অথবা সমতুল্য)। Model: Minimum ২০২৩ or Newer	
২০	দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউলের মূল্য	প্রতিটি ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা।	
২১	লট নং	লটের শনাক্তকরণ	স্থান
	১	০১টি ০৭সীটের (MPV)	মৌলভীবাজার
দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর বিবরণ		দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ (টাকা)	চুক্তির সময়কাল
২২	দরপত্র আদানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	৩৭,০০০/- (সাতত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা	১২ মাস চুক্তি হবে।
২৩	দরপত্র আদানকারীর পদবি	ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি) এর নামে জমা পে-অর্ডার করতে হবে।	
২৪	দরপত্র আদানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	উপ-পরিচালক (অফিস প্রধান)	
২৫	দরপত্র আদানকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগের জন্য	টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, শেরপুর, মৌলভীবাজার।	
		মোবাইল নং-০১৭৬৬৯৩৩৭৯৪	ফ্যাক্স নং--
			ই-মেইল: tcbsyl@tcb.gov.bd
২৬	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা		
ক) এ দরপত্র পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে।			
খ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী এবং পণ্যের বিবরণ দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।			
গ) অসম্পূর্ণ, শর্তযুক্ত এবং বিকল্প দরপত্র কোন প্রকার বিবেচনায় আসবে না।			
ঘ) কোন কারণ দর্শনো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণ/আংশিকভাবে গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলে ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।			
ঙ) কোন দরদাতা নোটিফিকেশন অব এ্যাওয়ার্ড (NOA) পাওয়ার পর যথাসময়ে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) প্রদান না করতে পারেন তাহলে তার দায়িত্বকৃত দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং দরপত্র জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে।			
চ) কোন কারণবশতঃ পূর্বে নোটিফিকেশন অব এ্যাওয়ার্ড (NOA) পাওয়ার পর কোন দরদাতা যথাসময়ে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) প্রদানে ব্যর্থ হলে অথবা পূর্বে কোন দরদাতার পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণরূপে বাজেয়াপ্ত হয়ে থাকলে, তাহলে তিনি দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।			
<div><div></div><div>MD-1608</div></div> <div>মোঃ সোহেল রানা উপ-পরিচালক (অফিস প্রধান)</div>			