

INTERNATIONAL

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.

Trump, 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.

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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 Nyinchi.

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 -- Diplo 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, 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 that those arrested in the aftermath of the incident be promptly produced before the court and be tried 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

Robidas, general secretary of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM); Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS); Dewan Zaman, executive director of FAIR; Pallab Chakma, executive director of Kapeeng Foundation; Rokeya Rafique Baby, executive director of Kormoibibi Nari; Geeta Das, president of Naripokkho; Abdus Sattar Dulal, president of the National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations (NADPO); and Ashrafuna 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.

Shafat 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.

ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিৰি)	
আকাশিক কার্যালয়, মোল্ডোবাজার।	
০১টি ০৭ সীটের (MPV) গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (অভ্যন্তরীণ)	www tcb.gov.bd
১ মুক্তগোল্ড/পিভিডপ	বাসিন্দা মুক্তগোল্ড
২ এজেন্সি	ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিৰি)
৩ ড্রাইভারের নাম	ড্রাইভার মোল্ডোবাজার (আফিস প্রধান), টিসিৰি আকাশিক কার্যালয়, মোল্ডোবাজার।
৪ ড্রাইভারের পোতা	প্রয়োজন নথে
৫ ড্রাইভারীয়ের জেলা	মোল্ডোবাজার
৬ দরপত্র আয়নান্বৃত পথ	০১টি ০৭ সীটের (MPV) গাড়ি ভাড়াকরণ
৭ আয়নান্বৃত রেফারেন্স নং	২৬,০০,০০০,০০০,৯৯,১৬৯,২২-৮৩২
৮ তারিখ	১৯-০৮-২০১৫
৯ ক্রয় পত্রিকা	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পত্রিকা (অভ্যন্তরীণ)
তথ্যবিন্দু তথ্য	
১০ বার্জেট এবং তথ্যবিলের উৎস	টিসিৰি'র নিয়ন্ত্রণ তথ্যবিল
বিবরণ তথ্য	
১১ পার্কেজের নং	টিসিৰি/মোল্ডোবাজার/ভাড়াকৃত গাড়ী ২০২০-২০২৬
১২ পার্কেজের নাম	দরপত্রিক কার্যালয়ের ০১টি গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণ
১৩ দরপত্র প্রকল্প/সিভিউ তারিখ	২০-০৯-২০২৫
১৪ দরপত্র প্রকল্প/সিভিউ শান্ত	আর্তিক: ০৩-০৮-২০২৫
১৫ দরপত্র প্রকল্প/সিভিউ দার্শন দার্শন করার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	সময়: বিকাল ০৫:০০ টা
১৬ দরপত্র প্রকল্প/সিভিউ দার্শন দার্শন করার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	আর্তিক: ০৩-০৮-২০২৫
১৭ আফিস স্মৃতি-এর নাম ও ঠিকানা	স্থিকনা
সেবার দরপত্র প্রকল্পের নাম	দার্শন করার প্রয়োজন ০১টি গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণ
১৮ সেবার সংক্ষিপ্ত ঠিকানা	দার্শন করার প্রয়োজন ০১টি গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণ
১৯ দরপত্র প্রকল্প/সিভিউ নথে	টিসিৰি'র আফিস কক্ষ, টিসিৰি আকাশিক কার্যালয়, মোল্ডোবাজার।
২০ দরপত্র প্রকল্প/সিভিউ নথে	টিসিৰি'র আফিস প্রধানের কক্ষ, টিসিৰি আকাশিক কার্যালয়, মোল্ডোবাজার।
২১ লট নং	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ (টাকা)
২২ ০১টি ০৭সীটের (MPV)	৩৫,০০০/- (সাতগুণ হাজার) টাকা
২৩ মোল্ডোবাজার	ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিৰি) এর নামে জমা পে-অর্ডার করতে হবে।
২৪ ক্রয় নথে	ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিৰি) এর নামে জমা পে-অর্ডার করতে হবে।
২৫ দরপত্র আয়নান্বৃত কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোবাইল নং-০১৭৬৯৩০৭৯৪৮ ফ্যাক্স নং--
২৬ দরপত্র আয়নান্বৃত কর্মকর্তার পরিচয়	