

# Israeli military intercepts missile fired from Yemen

## Iran-backed Houthis target Ben Gurion Int'l Airport

Yemen's Houthi rebels launched two attacks targeting Israel's main airport, the latest yesterday, with the Israeli army intercepting both, a day after striking the rebel-held Yemeni port of Hodeida.

Israel has repeatedly struck Houthi-held parts of Yemen after the Iran-backed rebels began targeting the country with missile and drone attacks, claiming solidarity with Palestinians over the Gaza war.

The Houthis targeted Ben Gurion International Airport "using a 'Palestine 2' hypersonic ballistic missile", according to military spokesman Yarya Saree, who had hours earlier claimed a similar attack on the airport.

On Monday, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said "Yemen's fate will be the same as Tehran's" after hitting Houthi targets in Hodeida port in an attack aimed to prevent any attempt to restore infrastructure previously hit.

A Houthi security official, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, told AFP that "the bombing destroyed the port's dock, which had been rebuilt following previous strikes."

The Houthis recently resumed deadly attacks in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, targeting ships they accuse of having links to Israel, to put pressure on Israel to end the Gaza war.



Mourners react next to the body of a Palestinian child killed in an Israeli strike, according to medics, at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City yesterday. The UN reports that more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces while attempting to access food in Gaza since the launch of the US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Trump pulls US out of Unesco for second time

AFP, Washington

The US yesterday announced it has left Unesco, saying the UN cultural and education agency, best known for establishing world heritage sites, is biased against Israel and promotes "divisive" causes.

"Continued involvement in Unesco is not in the national interest of the United States," the State Department spokeswoman said.

The US exit was expected under President Donald Trump, who also ordered withdrawal from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2017 during his first term. President Joe Biden then reestablished US membership.

State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce described Unesco as working "to advance divisive social and cultural causes".

# EPSTEIN STORY

## White House restricts WSJ access to Trump

AFP, Washington

The White House on Monday barred The Wall Street Journal from traveling with US President Donald Trump during his upcoming visit to Scotland, after the newspaper reported that he wrote a bawdy birthday message to his former friend, alleged sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

The move comes after Trump on Friday sued the WSJ and its media magnate owner Rupert Murdoch for at least \$10 billion over the allegation in the article, which Trump denies.

The Trump administration's handling of the Epstein case has threatened to split the Republican's far-right Make America Great Again (MAGA) base, with some of his supporters calling for a full release of the so-called "Epstein Files."

The punishment of the Wall Street Journal marks at least the second time the Trump administration has moved to exclude a major news outlet from the press pool over its reporting, having barred Associated Press journalists from multiple key events since February.

"As the appeals court confirmed, The Wall Street Journal or any other news outlet are not guaranteed special access to cover President Trump in the Oval Office, aboard Air Force One, and in his private workspaces," said Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt.

"Due to The Wall Street Journal's fake and defamatory conduct, they will not be one of the thirteen outlets on board (Air Force One)."

Trump departs this weekend for Scotland, where he owns two golf resorts and will meet with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

# TRUMP-PAKISTAN SHIFT

## India recalibrates its relations with China

REUTERS, New Delhi

US President Donald Trump's lunch meeting with Pakistan's military chief prompted a private diplomatic protest from India in a warning to Washington about risks to their bilateral ties while New Delhi is recalibrating relations with China as a hedge, officials and analysts said.

The meeting and other tensions in the US-India relationship, after decades of flourishing ties, have cast a shadow in trade negotiations, they said, as Trump's administration weighs tariffs against one of its major partners in the Indo-Pacific.

India blames Pakistan, especially its military establishment, for supporting what it calls cross-border terrorism and has told the US it is sending the wrong signals by wooing Field Marshal Asim Munir, three senior Indian government officials directly aware of the matter told Reuters.

It has created a sore spot that will hamper relations going forward, they said. Pakistan denies accusations that it supports militants who attack Indian targets and that New Delhi has provided no evidence that it is involved.

US-India ties have strengthened in the past two decades despite minor hiccups, at least partly because both countries seek to counter China. The current problems are different, said Michael Kugelman, a Washington-based senior fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation think tank.

"The frequency and intensity with which the US is engaging with Pakistan, and seemingly not taking Indian concerns into account, especially after India's recent conflict with Pakistan, has contributed to a bit of a bilateral malaise."

"The concern this time around is that one of the triggers for broader tensions, that being

Trump's unpredictability, is extending into the trade realm with his approach to tariffs," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office and India's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment. The foreign ministry has previously said that it had "taken note" of the Trump-Munir meeting.

India, like other nations, is trying to figure out a way to deal with Trump and is recalibrating ties with China as a hedge, said Harsh Pant, foreign policy head at India's Observer Research Foundation think tank.



"Certainly there is an outreach to China," he said. "And I think it is mutual...China is also reaching out". Last week, India's Jaishankar made his first visit to Beijing since a deadly 2020 border clash between Indian and Chinese troops.

India is also making moves to ease restrictions on investments from China that were imposed following the 2020 clash.

The thaw comes despite India's prickly relations with China and Beijing's close ties and military support to Pakistan.

# BOEING 787, 737 AIRCRAFT

## No issues found in fuel control switches: Air India

REUTERS

Air India said yesterday it has completed precautionary inspections of the fuel control switch locking mechanism on all its Boeing 787 and 737 aircraft, with no issues detected.

The probe into the Air India crash that killed 241 of the 242 people on board and 19 on the ground is focused on the fuel control switches of the Boeing 787 jetliner, with a final report from India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) expected within a year of the incident.

The switches control fuel flow to aircraft engines, allowing pilots to start or shut them down on the ground, or manually

intervene during in-flight engine failures.

Air India began voluntary inspections of the switches on July 12. India's aviation regulator soon ordered all domestic carriers to conduct similar checks, prompting some foreign airlines and regulators to follow suit.

A preliminary report from the AAIB earlier this month found the switches had almost simultaneously flipped from 'run' to 'cutoff' shortly after takeoff, causing the engines to lose power.

The report cited a 2018 FAA advisory that urged operators of several Boeing models, including the 787, to inspect the locking mechanism on fuel cutoff switches to prevent unintentional movement.

# Govt could've acted more responsibly

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response pushed the situation beyond their control."

He further alleged that since Monday night, there had been "propaganda about the disappearance of bodies" and urged the government to release accurate information.

"They must disclose how many students, teachers, and staff were present at the college during the crash, how many were killed or injured, and provide regular updates. If there is no attempt to hide bodies, be transparent about it."

Calling for an impartial probe into the incident, Nahid stressed that the investigation should include independent experts and representatives of the school authority.

"We must know why this crash occurred and ensure this never happens again. The government should also establish long-term emergency response and medical rescue teams."

Expressing deep condolences over the deaths, Nahid announced the NCP's solidarity with the six-point demands raised by protesting students of Milestone College.

"These are reasonable demands, and the government should implement them without delay," he added.

Nahid criticised several government advisers for what he termed "reckless behaviour", pointing at the education adviser.

"We heard around 3:00am that the HSC exams would be postponed. Other advisers could not reach him over the phone. In an emergency, this kind of disarray at the top only fuels public anxiety."

Finally, Nahid urged students and citizens to remain calm and vigilant, and called on all political and social groups to support the victims and ensure that no one exploits the situation for political gain.

The press conference was moderated by NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen, while Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara also spoke.

# HSC examinees storm Secretariat, stage protest

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They later marched towards the Secretariat, defying police barriers at several points.

They started demonstrating around 2:15pm when several hundred took position at the Secretariat, prompting the authorities to close all entry points to the administrative complex as a security measure. Students from many other colleges joined the protesters, witnesses said.

Additional police members and army personnel were deployed there.

The situation escalated around 4:15pm when a group of protesters, mostly the HSC examinees, stormed into the secretariat and vandalised several cars and motorcycles inside the compound.

Law enforcers and army personnel responded by charging batons and firing tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd. Both sides hurled brick chunks at each other, and the clash continued for over an hour before law enforcers finally drove the protesters out of the secretariat and adjacent areas.

The clashes triggered panic among government staffers and commuters in the surrounding areas.

At least 75 of the injured, mostly students, took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of DMCH police outpost.

Talking to The Daily Star, Aunwho Hossain Nihal, an HSC candidate from Dhaka City College, said, "Even after the tragic crash, where some of our younger brothers died, the education ministry took no action to defer today's exam until we threatened to demand the adviser's resignation. Only then, in the middle of the night, did they decide to postpone today's exam. Now, we are demanding the resignation of both the minister and the education secretary for their negligence."

Sudipto Protto Sen, another HSC examinee, said someone lost a brother, someone their sister, and an examinee lost his mother. "That's why we wanted the exam to be postponed."

"But they initially refused to meet our demand. Later, when the issue gained traction on social media, they announced around 3:00am that today's HSC exam would be postponed. Our question is: why didn't they make that decision earlier? How does it make sense to announce it at 3:00am?"

COUNTRYWIDE PROTEST

Apart from Dhaka, students with similar demands also staged protests in front of at least five education boards: Barishal, Chattogram, Sylhet, Jashore, Dinajpur, and Cumilla. At each location, students locked the gates and held sit-ins for several hours.

In Barishal, students blocked the Barishal-Dhaka highway for around one and a half hours and locked the main gate of the Barishal Education Board.

The demonstration began around 11:30am and involved students from both secondary and higher secondary institutions.

Due to the blockade, not only did traffic come to a standstill, leading to long tailbacks on both sides of the highway, causing suffering to commuters, but also road communication between the southern region and the rest of Bangladesh was severely impeded.

At the same time, the protesters locked the main gate of the Barishal Education Board at the city's Natullahbad area. The protesters cleared the road around 1:00pm.

Later in the evening, students took the street again at around 7:00pm in front of the education board. The demonstration

continued till filing the report at around 8:00pm. However, the highway was not blocked in the evening.

In Chattogram, students also blocked a major road. The protest began around 2:00pm in front of the Chattogram Education Board office in the city's Sholoshohor area and continued till 5:30pm.

In Sylhet, hundreds of students marched from Chowhatta point to the education board office in the Alampur area around 4:00pm. They blocked the Sylhet-Zakiganj regional highway for around two hours from around 5:00pm.

The blockade caused a long tailback, forcing commuters to walk to their destinations. Vehicles were seen taking alternative routes or turning back.

In Cumilla, students locked the gate of the main building of Cumilla Education Board for around one and half hours.

The protesters took out a procession from the city's Pubali Square area at around 11:30am and marched to the education board. Then, they locked the gate of the main building.

In Mymensingh, students blocked the Ganginarpar intersection for around one hour in the morning.

In Narayanganj, the

Student Federation of Bangladesh formed a human chain demanding a proper investigation into the aircraft crash and fair compensation for the victims.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to the report.]

## ‘We must stop mob culture’

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"These groups should refrain from taking advantage of a tragic moment in Bangladesh's history for their own gain," he said.

Tarique emphasised that this is a time for collective empathy and national unity, not political opportunism.

He urged all to focus on supporting the victims and their families, helping identify the missing, and ensuring the injured receive the best possible medical care.

The BNP leader also stressed the need for a thorough and impartial investigation into the cause of the crash.

"As our hearts go out to the innocent lives lost and the families shattered, Bangladesh must remain united and face every crisis with solidarity."

**বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌপরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

**ঘাট-পয়েন্টের ইজারা/লাইসেন্সের টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌপরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিআইডব্লিউটিএ)-এর ঢাকা ও ভোলা নদী বন্দরের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন নিম্নেবর্ণিত ০৪(চার)টি ঘাট/পয়েন্ট ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের অবশিষ্ট সময়ের (৩১-০৭-২০২৫ ইং তারিখ হতে ৩০-০৬-২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত=৩৩৫ দিনের) জন্য ইজারা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে আগামী ২৭-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখ ১ম দফা টেন্ডার অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:		
ক্রম নং	নদী বন্দরের নাম	ঘাট/পয়েন্টের নাম
১.	ঢাকা	কুচিয়ামোড়া ঘাট শুষ্ক আদায় ও লেবার হ্যাভলিং ঘাট/পয়েন্ট
২.	ভোলা	আলহাজ্ব চৌধুরী কামাল উদ্দিন লঞ্চঘাট
৩.	ভোলা	কলাতলীর চর লঞ্চঘাট
৪.	ভোলা	ভেদুরিয়া ফেরীঘাট লঞ্চঘাট

২। টেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্যাদি/নিয়মাবলী টেন্ডার সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। তাছাড়া বিআইডব্লিউটিএ'র বন্দর ও পরিবহন বিভাগ, ঢাকা দপ্তর এবং ঢাকা ও ভোলা নদী বন্দরের বন্দর নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্মকর্তাগণের দপ্তর হতেও তথ্যাদি জানা যাবে।

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