

36 killed in India as heavy rains hit Himalayas

Pakistan issues flood alerts as India opens dams

REUTERS, Srinagar

Heavy rain swept across the Himalayas, killing at least 36 people in India over the past 24 hours and forcing authorities to open major dams, in turn triggering flood alerts on three rivers in neighbouring Pakistan.

In the deadliest single disaster, a landslide killed 33 people near the Hindu mountain shrine of Vaishno Devi on a pilgrim route in India's federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

Three more people died as floodwaters burst the banks of rivers in the district of Doda and swamped low-lying areas, authorities added.



About 200 children were stranded yesterday after flood water engulfed a school building in the northern state of Punjab, local media said.

Vehicles tumbled off the Madhopur barrage over the Tawi river when parts of it collapsed after being lashed by heavy rain overnight into yesterday morning, video images showed. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Some highways linking Jammu to the rest of India were also damaged.

Officials were battling to restore "almost non-existent" telecommunications services, Omar Abdullah, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said.

"We had 612 mm rainfall in Jammu region since August 23 till today. This is 726% above normal rainfall in the region during this time of the year. It is the highest rainfall in the region since 1950," Mukhtar Ahmad, Director at the India Meteorological Department in Srinagar, told Reuters.



Israeli troops take position during a raid in the city of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, yesterday. Local sources said clashes broke out at the eastern entrance to the old city. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported several injuries as a result, but none from gunfire.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia hits Ukrainian energy facilities

3 killed; 100,000 left without power; Kremlin views possible European troops in Ukraine 'negatively'

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched a massive drone attack on energy and gas transport infrastructure across six Ukrainian regions overnight, killing three people and leaving more than 100,000 people without power, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Russian forces significantly damaged gas transport infrastructure in Poltava region and struck equipment at one of the key substations in the Sumy region, the energy ministry said on the Telegram messaging service.

The attacks left more than 100,000 people without power in the Poltava, Sumy and Chernihiv regions, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Ukraine's main gas production facilities are located in Poltava and Kharkiv regions. Kharkiv region was also hit overnight, as were the regions of Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk, the energy ministry said.

In recent weeks, Russia has stepped up attacks on Ukrainian gas production and import infrastructure despite efforts by

US President Donald Trump to end the war in Ukraine, reports Reuters.

"We regard the Russian attacks as a continuation of the Russian Federation's deliberate policy of destroying Ukraine's civilian infrastructure ahead of the heating

② Ukrainian Air Force said it had downed 74 drones out of 95 launched by Russia

② Kremlin praises efforts by the US to achieve peace in Ukraine

season," the energy ministry said.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin yesterday praised efforts by the United States to achieve peace in Ukraine, saying this month's US-Russia summit in Alaska had been "meaningful and necessary."

But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Moscow

took a negative view of European proposals regarding security guarantees for Kyiv. He reiterated Russia's longstanding position that no troops from Nato countries should be deployed to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Air Force said it had downed 74 drones out of 95 launched by Russia overnight, and that 21 drones had struck nine locations around the country.

Ukraine had faced a serious gas shortage since Russian missile strikes earlier this year prompted a 40 percent drop in production.

Ukraine's energy ministry said last week that energy facilities had been attacked 2,900 times since March 2025. The attack on Poltava region temporarily cut power to consumers, which has since been restored, Governor Volodymyr Kohut said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

Ukraine criticised Russia for setting out plans to withdraw from the Council of Europe's treaty for the prevention of torture, saying the proposal was a tacit admission of guilt by Moscow.

Iran forces kill 13 militants in southeast

AFP, Tehran

Iranian forces have killed 13 militants in a raid in the restive southeast, state media reported yesterday, adding they were members of a group suspected of a recent deadly attack on police.

"So far, 13 terrorists have been killed and a number of others arrested" in Sistan-Baluchistan province, the Revolutionary Guards said in a statement.

It said operations were carried out in the cities of Iranshahr, Khash and Saravan. The broadcaster said that some of those killed were suspected of being behind an ambush reported on Friday that killed five policemen in Iranshahr.

Sistan-Baluchistan, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, has long been a flashpoint for clashes between security forces and armed groups, including drug traffickers and separatists. Home to a large Sunni Muslim Baluch community, the province is one of the poorest regions of Shia-majority Iran.

Digital monitoring system for medical equipment by Dec

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Hospital to know whether we can get the service there as it would be convenient for us. But we were told that the radiotherapy machine there also remains non-functional," he added.

Like Sakina, Parvin Begum, a 50-year-old cancer patient from Narayanganj, had to wait for around 25 days for radiotherapy.

A staff member of the radiotherapy department said one machine has been out of service for seven to eight years and another for five to six years. The only machine in operation now was also repaired a few months ago.

Not only DMCH, but scores of other government hospitals across the country have been struggling to diagnose and treat patients as hundreds of medical devices remain non-functional, forcing many to seek costly services at private clinics, said health officials.

The National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop and Training Center (NEMEMW & TC), a government agency, is responsible for repair and maintenance of medical equipment in around 700 government hospitals.

Several officials at the agency said around 500 repair requisitions for medical devices, including high-tech equipment, are currently pending.

However, the actual number of non-functional devices is likely to be much higher, as many hospitals delay submitting requisitions.

Contacted, Jayanta Kumar Mukhopadhyay, chief technical manager of NEMEMW & TC, said they have floated a tender to repair 415 medical devices while inspections are

going on to determine the problems with the rest.

The process is taking more time than usual due to insufficient manpower, he said.

At least 58 of the 95 posts at the agency remain vacant, Jayanta said, adding that the process of recruiting 55 staffers, including 19 assistant engineers, is underway and likely to be completed this year.

SYSTEM TO BE LAUNCHED BY DEC
The Health Services Division on August 18 wrote to NEMEMW & TC, directing it to develop a system to monitor medical equipment in public hospitals.

② System to give real-time alerts on breakdowns

② System to store repair history for accountability

② Devices like MRI, CT scan, X-ray machines targeted in first phase

② 114 hospitals to come under the system's purview

Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, said that once put in place, the system would enhance the authorities' capacity to ensure uninterrupted services of high-tech equipment at public hospitals.

"It will give us real-time updates... We will be able to intervene promptly as the system will continue to send alerts until the device is repaired," he

told The Daily Star on August 23.

Jayanta Kumar said that in the first phase, the agency will monitor high-tech and costly medical devices in 114 government hospitals, including all district and specialised hospitals.

Around Tk 30 crore may be required for the project that will cover equipment worth approximately Tk 2,000 crore.

He said that once they get administrative and financial approval from the ministry, a tender will be floated to hire a vendor. The system is expected to be launched by December.

HOW WILL THE SYSTEM WORK?

Two officials of NEMEMW & TC said they will install monitoring devices on medical equipment to track electricity consumption levels for each machine.

Explaining the mechanism, they said a piece of equipment consumes a certain amount of electricity under normal conditions, and the level of consumption increases when it is in use. However, electricity usage drops to nearly zero when the equipment becomes non-functional.

Once a machine becomes non-functional, the installed monitoring device will send a signal to the monitoring systems at the hospital, NEMEMW & TC, the Directorate General of Health Services, and the health ministry.

They further said the agency will also collect data on the equipment's installation date, maintenance history, and other relevant details, enabling higher authorities to ensure accountability of the hospital concerned.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Shariatpur Sadar, District: Shariatpur
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8669.000.14.398.25-384

Date: 27-08-2025

e-Tender Notice-01/2025-2026 (OTM)

This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of below works. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

SI No.	Tender ID No.	Name & Package No.	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01	1143142	Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of 56 Palong Gps under PEDP4. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Dhanuka Gps under PEDP4. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Palong Tulasar Model Gps under PEDP4. e-Tender/PEDP4/SRT/SAD/2024-25/W15A.01548	21/09/2025 16:00pm	22/09/2025 14:00pm	22/09/2025 14:00pm

There is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches within abovementioned date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) and also e-mail: ue.shariatpur-s@lged.gov.bd

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NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT China says talks with US, Russia 'unreasonable'

AFP, Beijing

China said yesterday that it would not participate in denuclearisation talks with the United States and Russia, after President Donald Trump said he hoped to include Beijing in negotiations.

Trump on Monday said the United States was trying to pursue denuclearisation with both countries. "I think the denuclearisation is a very -- it's a big aim. But Russia's willing to do it and I think China is going to be willing to do it too," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"We can't let nuclear weapons proliferate. We have to stop nuclear weapons," he added.

Russia and the United States -- former Cold War rivals -- possess almost 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons between them, but Moscow pulled out of the last remaining arms control agreement with Washington in 2023.

Caretaker govt

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After the hearing was concluded, the bench allowed the review petitioners to move an appeal before the court against its 2011 verdict. The apex court also set October 21 for the hearing of the appeal.

Responding to the chief justice's question, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman said the Appellate Division has the powers to issue necessary guidelines for a sustainable solution regarding the caretaker government issues and to determine when the system will become effective after hearing of the appeal.

In the meantime, the interim government will fulfill its role, he added.

The attorney general represented the state while Sharif Bhuiyan, accompanied by lawyer Tamim Hussain Shawon, appeared for the review petitioners, Shujan Secretary Badul Alam Majumdar and four others, and lawyers Zainul Abedin, Badruddoza Badal, Ahsanul Karim, Md Ruhul Qudus Kazal, and Kayser Kamal appeared for BNP.

Lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir argued that the caretaker system was introduced through a political consensus and had become a basic structure of the constitution.

He mentioned that the caretaker system strengthened democracy and did not violate the doctrine of the basic structure.

The first petition, filed by Badul Alam and four others on August 27 last year, argued that the caretaker system was self-contradictory, as the short verdict allowed the next two national elections under a caretaker government system, but it was omitted in the full judgment.

Four other petitioners are Toftail Ahmed, Malfizuddin Khan, Md Jobirul Hoque Bhuiyan, and Zahrah Rahman.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Jamaat Secretary General Miah Golam Parwar filed review petitions on October 16 and 23 last year.

All the petitioners said elections in 2014, 2018, and 2024 proved that free and fair polls were not possible under political governments.

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