

TYPHOON BUALOI

Dozens killed in Vietnam, Philippines

AFP, Hanoi

A typhoon that ripped roofs off homes has killed dozens of people across Vietnam and the Philippines, officials from both countries said yesterday, as a weakened storm Bualoi crossed into neighbouring Laos.

The typhoon battered small islands in the centre of the Philippines last week, toppling trees and power pylons, unleashing floods and forcing 400,000 people to evacuate.

A Philippine civil defence official said later yesterday the death toll there had more than doubled to 27, with most of the victims either drowned or hit by debris.

In Vietnam, Bualoi made landfall as a typhoon late on Sunday, generating winds of 130 kilometres (80 miles) per hour. At least 13 people were killed in Vietnam, while a search is ongoing for 20 others, disaster authorities said in an online update.

More than 44,200 houses were damaged, including those with roofs torn off, mostly in the central Ha Tinh province. At least 800 houses were flooded, and nearly 6,000 hectares of crops were inundated.


More than 53,000 people were evacuated to schools and medical centres converted into temporary shelters ahead of Bualoi hitting Vietnam, the environment ministry said.

Since making landfall in Vietnam, Bualoi has weakened as it moved across the border into Laos. It came on the heels of Super Typhoon Ragasa, which killed 14 people across the northern Philippines.



A view of Cua Lo beach damaged after typhoon Bualoi made landfall in Vietnam's Nghe province yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



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Anything produced in America in the future, if they do move the factories there, will be costly. America will not be able to compete with the rest of the world.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
Malaysia's ex PM, says China will be the number one country in 10 years

Israel is becoming a pariah

CNN ONLINE

Israel is becoming increasingly isolated on the world stage as the war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza continue, with the backlash seeping into economic, cultural and sporting arenas.

International condemnation has soared since Israel announced a ground assault on Gaza City and conducted an unprecedented strike against Hamas leadership on Qatari soil. It also comes as an independent UN inquiry concluded for the first time last week that Israel had committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, a finding that echoes those of other genocide experts and human rights groups, but which the Israeli government has rejected.

Last week, the European Union – Israel's biggest trading partner – proposed sanctions that would partially suspend its free trade agreement with Israel, if approved by EU member states. Several Western nations have already implemented targeted sanctions against certain Israeli individuals, settler outposts and organisations supporting violence in the occupied West Bank.

The global outcry is hitting Israel's economy in other ways as well.

In August, Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, announced it was divesting parts of its portfolio in Israel due to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Israel also faces partial or complete arms embargoes from France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and others over its conduct in Gaza.

The backlash has been so stark that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself acknowledged it earlier this month, warning that Israel is facing a “kind of isolation” that could last for years, adding that the country has no choice but to stand on its own.

As the war escalates, Israel is also taking hits in the entertainment and culture sphere.

Broadcasters in several European countries, including Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain, have said they will boycott the much-beloved Eurovision Song Contest if Israel is allowed to participate in 2026.

In the fine arts, a music festival in Ghent, Belgium, recently cancelled a concert by the Munich Philharmonic, which was set to perform with Israeli conductor Lahav Shani. The festival said in a statement that “Shani has spoken out in favour of



peace and reconciliation several times in the past, but... we are unable to provide sufficient clarity about his attitude to the genocidal regime in Tel Aviv.”

In Hollywood, thousands of filmmakers, actors and movie industry workers have pledged not to work with Israeli film institutions “that are implicated in genocide and apartheid against the Palestinian people.” Signatories include Olivia Colman, Emma Stone, Andrew Garfield and Hannah Einbinder, who recently made headlines by ending her Emmys acceptance speech with the words “free Palestine.”

Nor has sport been immune. The final stage of a major bike race was cancelled earlier this month after several large pro-

Palestinian demonstrations disrupted the event, in protest of the Israel-Premier Tech team's participation. Also in Spain, organisers of a chess tournament told Israeli players they could not compete under their national flag, prompting them to withdraw from the competition earlier this month, according to Reuters.

And Israeli media outlets have recently reported fears that Israel could be at risk of suspension from European football competitions. Several Premier League

cricket and eventually rugby.

“The symbolic has more leverage than the bolts and numbers,” said Ilan Baruch, Israel's former ambassador to South Africa, who resigned from the Israeli Foreign Ministry in 2011 to protest the government “ditching” its commitment to peace through a two-state solution.

“Eurovision is very popular, and the football tournaments are very, very popular. And if you even mention a connection between the pressure on Israel on policy issues and culture and sports and so on, it will make an impact,” as was the case with South Africa, he told CNN.

This week's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) brought further isolation for Israel on the world stage. Several more Western countries formally recognised a Palestinian state ahead of the UNGA, including diplomatic heavy hitters like Canada, France and the United Kingdom.

And a fresh analysis of key UNGA votes on resolutions related to Israeli-Palestinian affairs between 2017 and 2025, conducted by Robert Satloff, the executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, found that some of Israel's longtime defenders are “leaving the fold.”

The number of states that have formally abstained from UNGA votes related to Israel – generally seen as passive support for the country – is declining.

Satloff said the big question is whether Israel's deepening diplomatic isolation is repairable.

Some UN member states already demonstrated “deep animosity toward Israel” before the current conflict, while other countries “are deeply moved by the specifics of what's happening in Gaza, and they're likely to soften their view of Israeli government behaviour once the war ends and or when a new government emerges in Israel,” Satloff said.

Though it still has the United States firmly behind it, Israel knows it has no other powers to rely on.

UK plans tougher rules for migrants seeking to stay

AFP, Liverpool

Britain's interior minister proposed tough new rules yesterday for migrants seeking to settle in the UK, as the ruling Labour party sought to bolster its fight against the hard right at its annual conference.

Migrants looking to remain indefinitely will have to have a job, not claim benefits and undertake volunteer community work under plans designed to claw back support among voters drawn to the hard-right, anti-immigrant Reform UK party, whose popularity is soaring in opinion polls.

Confronting Reform, led by firebrand Nigel Farage, is the main theme of Labour's four-day gathering in Liverpool, northwest England.

Currently, migrants with family in Britain and who have lived in the country for five years qualify for “indefinite leave to remain” – permanent residence – as do those who have lived legally in the UK for 10 years on any type of visa.

Eligible applicants meeting those thresholds also earn the right to live, work and study in the UK and to apply for benefits and British citizenship.

But in a major policy shift, interior minister Shabana Mahmood was to tell the Labour conference that migrants would have to make social security contributions, claim no benefits, have a clean criminal record and volunteer in their community in order to stay.

The government will consult on the changes later this year.

The announcement comes after Reform, which is currently leading in national polls, vowed to get rid of “indefinite leave to remain” altogether, with migrants instead required to reapply for visas every five years.



Nepal imposes travel ban on ex-PM Oli

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal has imposed travel bans on ousted prime minister KP Sharma Oli and four former senior officials as part of an investigation into deadly unrest earlier this month, the interior minister said yesterday.

Youth-led protests that began on September 8 over a brief social media ban, economic hardship and corruption quickly morphed into nationwide fury after a deadly crackdown.

Two days of violence left at least 73 people dead, the parliament and government offices were burned down, and forced the government's collapse.

In addition to Oli, travel bans have been placed on former home minister Ramesh Lekhak, former head of the National Investigation Department security agency, Hutaraj Thapa, and two other senior bureaucrats.

Interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki, who is leading the Himalayan nation until elections in March 2026, set up a commission to probe the violence.

The restrictions were recommended Sunday by the commission.

Home Minister Om Prakash Aryal told AFP on Monday that the ban is “already in effect.”



Demonstrators clash with riot police during an anti-government demonstration in Lima on Sunday. At least 19 people, including a police officer, were injured in the protest.

PHOTO: AFP

Thai ex-PM Thaksin seeks royal pardon

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's influential former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has applied for a royal pardon to reduce his one-year prison sentence, his lawyer told reporters yesterday.

Thaksin, 76, is one of the country's most polarising politicians, the patriarch of a dynasty which has for two decades grappled with the country's pro-monarchy, pro-military establishment.

The billionaire telecoms magnate is serving his sentence in a Bangkok prison after Thailand's Supreme Court ruled this month that he improperly served a 2023 sentence in a hospital suite rather than a cell.

Winyat did not say when the pardon request was submitted.

Thaksin was elected prime minister in 2001 and again in 2005. He took himself into exile after his second term was cut short by a military coup.