



A plume of smoke rises in the background as Palestinians return from a food distribution point run by the US and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) group, near the Netsarim corridor in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## Iran says co-op with IAEA futile

AFP, Tehran  
Iran's top diplomat yesterday said that cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog was no longer relevant following the reimposition of international sanctions on the Islamic republic. "The Cairo agreement is no longer relevant for our cooperation with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, referring to a September deal with the UN agency.

The deal had set up a framework to resume cooperation and allow the watchdog to inspect Iranian sites, after Tehran suspended cooperation following Israeli and US strikes on its key nuclear sites in June. Tehran had threatened to halt cooperation with the agency if it sought to reimpose the sanctions. "The three European countries thought they had a leverage in their hands, threatening to implement a snapback," Araghchi said during a meeting with foreign diplomats in Tehran. "Now they have used this lever and seen the results... the three European countries have definitely diminished their role and almost eliminated the justification for negotiations with them." He added that the European trio "will have a much smaller role than in the past" in any upcoming diplomacy over Iran's nuclear dossier.

## Landslides, floods kill 64 in Nepal, India

AFP, Kathmandu  
Landslides and floods triggered by heavy downpours in Nepal and neighbouring India have killed more than 60 people, officials said yesterday, as rescue workers raced to reach cut-off communities in remote mountainous terrain. Torrential downpours have lashed Nepal since Friday, leaving rivers in spate and many areas in the Himalayan nation inundated. At least 44 people have died in rain-triggered disasters and five are missing, Shanti Mahat, spokeswoman for Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, told AFP. At least 37 were killed by landslides in the worst-affected eastern district of Ilam. "Heavy rains overnight caused the landslides," said local district official Sunita Nepal. "Rescue workers have reached the affected areas. It was difficult because many roads were blocked." Rivers in the capital Kathmandu have also swelled, inundating settlements along their banks. Security personnel were deployed to assist rescue efforts with helicopters and motorboats. "There is some damage, but thanks to the authorities' prior flood alert, we were able to move some belongings to a safe place," said vegetable seller Rajan Khadga, 38.

Landslides have blocked several highways and disrupted flights, leaving hundreds of travellers — many returning after celebrating the Hindu festival of Dashain — stranded. At least five people are still missing, according to federal disaster officials. Prime Minister Sushila Karki said government agencies were

"fully prepared for rescue and relief". "Your safety is our utmost concern. Do not hesitate to seek necessary assistance," she said in an address, adding that the government has declared Sunday and Monday public holidays and urged people not to travel unless necessary.

monitored in the wake of heavy rains and landslides," he said in a statement on social media. India's weather department yesterday issued a red alert for "extremely heavy rainfall" in sub-Himalayan areas, including Darjeeling, until Monday. Relentless downpours also swelled rivers in neighbouring



Across the border in India, at least 20 people were killed in the tea-growing hill district of Darjeeling in West Bengal state after heavy overnight rain unleashed flash floods and landslides that destroyed homes and infrastructure. "In the wake of last night's heavy cyclone in the Darjeeling hills, over 20 people have lost their lives," said Harsh Vardhan Shringla, a lawmaker in India's upper house. Footage on Indian television news showed rescue workers using cables to access cut-off regions as raging waters smashed into bridges and caved in roads. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "pained by the loss of lives". "The situation in Darjeeling and surrounding areas is being closely

Bhutan, prompting the Indian army to join rescue efforts. Military helicopters were deployed to evacuate several civilians stranded in the border town of Phuentsholing, the army said in a statement. Monsoon rains, usually from June to September, bring widespread death and destruction every year across South Asia, but the number of fatal floods and landslides has increased in recent years. Experts say climate change has worsened their schedule, frequency and intensity. The Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development warned in June that communities faced heightened disaster risks this monsoon season.

## UK cops to get greater powers to restrict demos

AFP, London  
UK police are to be given greater powers to restrict protests as a minister said repeated large-scale pro-Palestinian demonstrations had caused "considerable fear" for the Jewish community. The government initiative follows Thursday's deadly knife and car-rammage attack on a synagogue in Manchester. A pro-Palestinian demonstration in central London went ahead on Saturday despite pleas from PM Keir Starmer to delay it. The government said police would be authorised to consider the "cumulative impact" of protests when deciding to impose limits on protesters.

"The right to protest is a fundamental freedom in our country. However, this freedom must be balanced with the freedom of their neighbours to live their lives without fear," Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said in a statement. Over 1,000 people took part in Saturday's protest in London's Trafalgar Square, with nearly 500 people arrested for showing support for the banned Palestine Action campaign group. Defend our Juries, a group that organises protests in support of Palestine Action, called the new measures an "extraordinary new affront to democracy" in a statement published Sunday.

## INDONESIA SCHOOL TRAGEDY Death toll rises to 45; 26 missing

AFP, Sidoarjo  
The death toll from an Indonesian school collapse rose to 45 yesterday, officials said, as rescuers recovered more victims buried under the rubble. Part of the multi-storey building on Indonesia's Java island collapsed suddenly on Monday as students gathered for afternoon prayers. Rescuers retrieved another 19 victims from the rubble on Sunday, National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) operations director Yudhi Bramantyo said. "According to our calculation, the total number of victims we have evacuated are 149, with 45 reported dead ... and 104 survivors," Yudhi told reporters Sunday, up from a toll of 37 earlier on Sunday and including several body parts. Nanang Sigit, the head of the local search and rescue agency, confirmed the same death toll. Yudhi said before the latest bodies were found on Sunday that at least 26 people were still missing. Rescuers were still working around the clock in the rubble of the Islamic boarding school. "We will continue to do our best," he said. "In other words, we will probably extend the operation until we are sure that all victims... have been recovered." Yudhi estimated that authorities would be able to clear the rubble by Tuesday. Investigators have been looking into the cause of the collapse, but initial signs pointed to substandard construction, according to experts.



## Russian strikes kill five in Ukraine Cause power outages

AFP, Kyiv  
Russian strikes on Ukraine yesterday killed five people and badly damaged energy infrastructure, temporarily severing power supplies to tens of thousands and prompting neighbouring Poland to put ground defence on high alert. Russian forces fired 496 drones and 53 missiles at Ukraine, the majority of which were shot down, according to the Ukrainian air force. "Sadly, five people were killed. My sincere condolences to everyone who lost loved ones to this terror," Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky said. Strikes killed four people near Lviv, which lies in western Ukraine and is hundreds of kilometres from the front line, and has been largely spared the attacks that have hit cities further east. Attacks also killed one person in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia and wounded people near the eastern front, local authorities said. The strikes cut power to over 110,000 subscribers across several regions, Ukraine's emergency services said, with the hardest hit being Zaporizhzhia. Overnight, more than 73,000 people in Zaporizhzhia were left without electricity, regional head Ivan Fedorov said, though power had been partially restored by the afternoon. Ukraine's state-run gas company Naftogaz network also reported damage to its network. The Russian army said it launched an attack "against enterprises of the military-industrial complex of Ukraine and gas and energy infrastructure facilities that ensured their operation."



Syria's interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa (left) visits the polling station where members of Syrian local committees have been casting their votes in the country's selection process to designate an interim parliament, in Damascus yesterday. Syria yesterday voted to select members of its first post-Assad parliament in a process criticised as undemocratic, with a third of the members appointed by Ahmed al-Sharaa. PHOTO: AFP

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সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে পরিলক্ষিত হচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশে বিভিন্ন সেক্টরের কলকারখানা, শিল্পপ্রতিষ্ঠান বিশেষ করে বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে ব্যবহৃত লিফট অথবা উত্তোলক যন্ত্রপাতির যথাযথ পরীক্ষা না করার কারণে জনসাধারণ বা শ্রমিকদের মারাত্মক দুর্ঘটনায় আহত/নিহত হওয়ার ঘটনা ঘটেছে। লিফট অথবা উত্তোলক যন্ত্রপাতির যান্ত্রিক অংশ, ক্যাবল, ব্রেক বা কন্ট্রোল সিস্টেম সঠিকভাবে কাজ না করলে প্রাণঘাতী দুর্ঘটনা ঘটার সম্ভাবনা রয়েছে। কর্মক্ষেত্রে দুর্ঘটনার ঝুঁকি হ্রাসে লিফট অথবা উত্তোলক যন্ত্রপাতির নিয়মিত রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও নিরাপদ ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করতে ঝুঁকি নিরূপণ ও পূর্ণাঙ্গ পরীক্ষণ করা অপরিহার্য। বাংলাদেশ শ্রম আইন, ২০০৬ এর ধারা ৬৯(১) উল্লেখ আছে, প্রত্যেক প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্রত্যেক হলেস্ট এবং লিফট ক) পর্যাপ্ত শক্তিশালী ও মজবুত পদার্থ দিয়ে উত্তমরূপে তৈরি হইতে হবে; খ) যথাযথভাবে রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করিতে হইবে; গ) প্রত্যেক প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্রত্যেক হলেস্ট এবং লিফট প্রতি ছয় মাসে অন্ততঃ একবার একজন উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তি দ্বারা সম্পূর্ণভাবে পরীক্ষিত হইতে হইবে এবং উক্ত রূপ প্রত্যেক পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত বিধি দ্বারা নির্ধারিত বিষয়াদি লিপিবদ্ধ করিবার জন্য একটি রেজিস্টার থাকিতে হইবে। উক্ত বিধানের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে লিফট অথবা উত্তোলক যন্ত্রপাতির সম্পূর্ণভাবে পরীক্ষার জন্য কলকারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শন অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক এ পর্যন্ত ২৮টি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ৪০ জনকে যোগ্য ব্যক্তি হিসাবে ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। যোগ্য ব্যক্তির তালিকা অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইটে (dife.gov.bd) প্রকাশিত রয়েছে। এছাড়াও কোন প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের মেকানিক্যাল বিভাগের ওয়ার্কশপ তত্ত্বাবধায়ক কর্তৃক লিফট অথবা উত্তোলক যন্ত্রপাতির যোগ্য ব্যক্তি ঘোষণা করার এখতিয়ার রয়েছে। অতএব, সংশ্লিষ্ট কলকারখানা, শিল্পপ্রতিষ্ঠান ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রতি ০৬ (ছয়) মাস অন্তর তাদের ব্যবহৃত লিফট অথবা উত্তোলক যন্ত্রপাতি যোগ্য ব্যক্তির মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষণ করাতে হবে এবং পরীক্ষার রিপোর্ট সংবলিত তথ্য এবং সার্টিফিকেশন লিফটের ভিতরে অথবা বাহিরে যেখানে জনসাধারণের দৃষ্টিগোচর হয় সেখানে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। এ আদেশ অবিলম্বে কার্যকর করা হবে।

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