

Tension rises as Israeli fire kills 3 in Gaza
Hamas urges mediators to intervene to stop daily killings

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli fire killed at least three Palestinians in two separate incidents across the enclave, local health authorities said, as tension rises over continued violence.

Medics said one Palestinian was killed in the Tuffah neighbourhood in Gaza City, in an area under Palestinian control, while two others were killed in the town of Bani Suhaila east of Khan Younis, an area Israel still occupies.

There was no comment from the Israeli military on the two incidents.

Fighting has largely abated since Israel and Palestinian group Hamas agreed to a ceasefire in October, two years into the war, but it has not stopped entirely. Israel and Hamas have traded blame over the violations of the deal.



Syrian security officers patrol the streets after a ceasefire in the Kurdish-majority Ashrafieh neighbourhood of Aleppo, northern Syria, yesterday. *Inset*, people ride in the back of a vehicle in Ashrafieh neighbourhood, after Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighters withdrew from the city.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Make a deal, before it is too late': Trump to Cuba

Suggests Rubio could lead the communist-ruled country

AGENCIES



comment: "Sounds good to me!"

In his own post soon afterwards, Trump said that "Cuba lived, for many years, on large amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela. In return, Cuba provided 'Security Services' for the last two Venezuelan dictators, BUT NOT ANYMORE!"

"Most of those Cubans are DEAD from last week's U.S.A. attack, and Venezuela doesn't need protection anymore from the thugs and extortionists who held them hostage for so many years."

The potential loss of oil imports and other support from Venezuela, for decades a key ally, could make governing more difficult for the administration.

Under a US trade embargo, Havana since 2000 has increasingly relied on Venezuelan oil provided as part of a deal struck with Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez, reports AFP.

US intelligence has painted a grim picture of Cuba's economic and political situation, but its assessments offer no clear support for Trump's prediction that the island is "ready to fall," Reuters reported on Saturday, citing three people familiar with the confidential assessments.

The CIA's view is that key sectors of the Cuban economy, such as agriculture and tourism, are severely strained by frequent blackouts, trade sanctions and other problems.

The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), described by many analysts as the military's prime proxy, won nearly 90 percent of lower house seats in the first phase.

Myanmar votes in 2nd phase of junta-run polls

AFP, Kawthu

Myanmar's junta held the second phase of elections yesterday that democracy watchdogs warn will let the military prolong its rule, opening polling in the constituency of deposed democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Farmer Than Than Sint acknowledged Myanmar's "many problems" but told AFP she voted in pursuit of peace.

"We know it will not come right away. But we need to go step by step for our future generations," the 54-year old said after voting.

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US, allied forces carry out strikes against IS in Syria

AFP, Washington

US and allied forces carried out "large scale" strikes against the Islamic State jihadist group in Syria on Saturday, the US military said, the latest response to an attack last month that killed three Americans.

US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees American military forces in the region, said multiple strikes "targeted ISIS throughout Syria," using an acronym for the jihadist group.

CENTCOM's post on X did not give specifics on where they took place. Grainy aerial video accompanying the post showed several separate explosions, apparently in rural areas.

The strikes were part of Operation Hawkeye Strike, which was launched "in direct response to the deadly ISIS attack on US and Syrian forces in Palmyra," CENTCOM said.

Jordan's air force also carried out targeted air strikes against IS as part of the operation, its military said on Sunday. It said in a statement it struck "a number of targets... in several areas within Syria territory".

Two US soldiers and a US civilian interpreter were killed on December 13 after a lone gunman -- whom Washington described as an IS militant -- ambushed them in Palmyra, home to Unesco-listed ancient ruins and once controlled by the jihadist group.

Syria's interior ministry later said the gunman was a member of the security forces who had been set to be fired for extremism.

RUSSIAN STRIKES 1,000 apartment blocks in Kyiv still without heating

REUTERS, Kyiv

More than 1,000 apartment buildings in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv are still without heating following a devastating Russian attack earlier this week, local authorities said yesterday.



Russia has intensified bombardments of Ukraine's energy system since it invaded its neighbour in 2022. On Friday, a missile strike on Kyiv left virtually the entire city without power and heating amid a sharp cold snap, and it was not until yesterday that authorities restored water supplies and partially restored electricity and heating.

The war's fourth winter could be the coldest and darkest yet, with the accumulated damage to the grid bringing utilities to the brink and temperatures, already below minus 12 degrees Celsius (10.4 F), set to plunge to minus 20 degrees (-4 F) later this week.

Ex-king voices concern over state of Nepal after protests

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's former king Gyanendra Shah has expressed concern over the state of the country four months after a youth-led uprising toppled the previous government.

At least 76 people were killed during the demonstrations last September, which saw four-time prime minister KP Sharma Oli ousted and replaced by former chief justice Sushila Karki in an interim capacity until elections scheduled later this year.

Shah, who was deposed in 2008 at the end of a decade-long civil war, has largely refrained from commenting on Nepal's fractious politics. But in a 12-minute video address on Saturday for national unity day, he warned Nepal "itself might not survive anymore."

"Nearly two decades since we left the palace, the crisis the country continues to face has us worried," Shah said.

"Yesterday, there was a concern that there was no development in the country, but today there is a bigger worry that the country itself might not survive any more."

He criticised leaders who had failed to heed the needs of young people and this had "bred dissatisfaction among the youths".



Firefighters battle a bushfire in Mount Pirque near El Hoyo, in Argentina's Patagonian Chubut province, on Saturday. More than 5,500 hectares of forest have been destroyed by the region's main wildfire.

PHOTO: AFP

TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN Tens of thousands protest in Minneapolis

REUTERS, Minneapolis

Tens of thousands of people marched through Minneapolis on Saturday to decry the fatal shooting of a woman by a US immigration agent, part of more than 1,000 rallies planned nationwide this weekend against the federal government's deportation drive.

The massive turnout in Minneapolis despite a whipping, cold wind underscores how the fatal shooting of 37-year-old Renee Good by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer on Wednesday has struck a chord, fueling protests in major cities and some towns.

Minnesota's Democratic leaders and the administration of President Donald

Trump, a Republican, have offered starkly different accounts of the incident.

Led by a team of Indigenous Mexican dancers, demonstrators in Minneapolis, which has a metropolitan population of 3.8 million, marched towards the residential street where Good was shot in her car.

The boisterous crowd, which the Minneapolis Police Department estimated in the tens of thousands, chanted Good's name and slogans such as "Abolish ICE" and "No justice, no peace – get ICE off our streets."

"I'm insanely angry, completely heartbroken and devastated, and then just like longing and hoping that things get better," Ellison Montgomery, a 30-year-old protester, told Reuters.



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জনবল নিয়োগের লিখিত পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা)- এর সহকারী পরিচালক (ইউই এন্ড আর্দার্স) এর ০১ (এক)টি শূন্যস্থানে জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে "দৈনিক মুগান্ত ও The Daily Star" পত্রিকায় গত ০৮ আগস্ট ২০২৫ তারিখে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রেক্ষিতে যোগ আবেদনকারীগণের লিখিত পরীক্ষা প্রাপ্তিশের তারিখ, সময়, কেন্দ্র ও প্রবেশপথের সংগ্রহের তথ্যাদি নিয়ন্ত্রণ:

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			১২.০১.২০২৬ তারিখ দুপুর ০২.০০ টা হতে ১৭.০১.২০২৬ তারিখ দুপুর ১১.০০ টা পর্যন্ত

১। আবেদনকারীগণকে ইউজার আইডি এবং পাসওয়ার্ড সঠিকভাবে পূরণপূর্বক উল্লিখিত ওয়েবসাইট হতে প্রবেশপথের সংগ্রহের রাজি রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রিস্ট করে নিতে হবে। **আবেদনকারীগণের নিকট ডাক্তার কোন প্রবেশপথ প্রেরণ করা হবে না।**

২। প্রবেশপথ সংগ্রহ করতে কোনো সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১-এ অথবা যেকোন অপারেটরের নম্বর থেকে ০১৫০০১২১১২১ নম্বরে কল করুন। এছাড়া নিচের ই-মেইল যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন:

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উপসচিব

পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

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সদস্য সচিব

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টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ