

Attack on Ukraine gas facilities kills 5 Zelensky, Putin offer rival ceasefire proposals

REUTERS, Kyiv

A Russian missile and drone attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure killed five people overnight, officials said yesterday, as President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced Moscow's ceasefire offer as cynical amid continuing strikes.

Serhiy Korytskiy, CEO of Ukraine's state energy company Naftogaz, said Russian forces struck gas production facilities in the Poltava and Kharkiv regions. Three Naftogaz employees and two emergency service rescuers were killed, while 37 people were wounded, he said.

Zelensky condemned the attacks after Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday proposed a brief ceasefire.

"It is utter cynicism to ask for a ceasefire in order to hold propaganda celebrations while carrying out such missile and drone strikes every single day leading up to it," Zelensky said.

Putin declared a two-day ceasefire on May 8 to 9, to coincide with events marking the anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two.

Zelensky countered by proposing his own pause in fighting, starting on the night of May 5-6, without specifying a timeframe, and said Ukraine would "act symmetrically from the specified moment."

He has repeatedly said Ukraine needs a long-term ceasefire.



Firefighters spray water at the scene of a fireworks factory explosion in Liuyang, in China's central Hunan province, early yesterday. The explosion killed at least 26 people and injured 61, state media said on May 5.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli strikes kill two more in Gaza

REUTERS, Cairo/Gaza

Israeli strikes killed at least two Palestinians and wounded several others in the Gaza Strip yesterday, health officials said.

Medics said a Palestinian was killed and two others were wounded by an Israeli airstrike near the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in Gaza City, while another was killed and several others were wounded by Israeli tank shelling near the central area of the enclave.

Violence in Gaza has persisted despite an October 2025 ceasefire, with Israel conducting almost daily attacks on Palestinians. Israel and Hamas have blamed each other for ceasefire violations.

At least 830 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire deal took effect, according to local medics, while Israel says militants have killed four of its soldiers over the same period.

BJP tightens grip in east

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dominated national politics for years, but analysts say this week's election victory in opposition-held West Bengal state could mark a watershed moment for his party's Hindu nationalist agenda.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept polls in the key eastern state of more than 100 million people, winning 206 of the 294 assembly seats, according to results announced Monday, for its first-ever victory in West Bengal.

Analysts say the BJP's victory is one of its most significant since Modi was first elected prime minister in 2014, expanding its dominance beyond the Hindi-speaking heartland of north and central India.

While many voters were drawn by a campaign that focused heavily on development and employment, the election also caps a determined party push to win over Indians apprehensive about Modi's nationalist agenda, fearing it would come at the expense of minority groups.

"It's a consolidation of the BJP in the east of India," political analyst Sushila Ramaswamy told AFP.

"It... establishes the BJP as the dominant party. No doubt about that."

Other election results announced on Monday gave the BJP a thumping win in northeastern Assam state and another term in power in the small coastal territory of Puducherry, representing a "spectacular comeback" after failing to secure a majority in the 2024 general election, according to Rasheed Kidwai, a visiting fellow with the Observer Research Foundation think tank.

"Since then, they've gotten their alliances right, the issues right," he told AFP.

The results should put Modi on a stronger footing as he battles a series of economic and foreign policy challenges, including a pending US trade deal, ahead of a general election in 2029.

West Bengal, a largely Bengali-speaking state, had been ruled by Modi's fierce critic and adversary Mamata Banerjee since 2011.

Mamata, leader of the regional All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), also lost her own seat in Monday's vote, a steep downfall for the once formidable leader.

The three-time chief minister relied on a strong support base of women, Muslims and urban Hindu residents to hold on to power.

In the last state polls in 2021, the BJP made a major dent in the TMC's majority, but not enough to unseat it.

Eyeing power in West Bengal, 75-year-old Modi has made regular visits and attacked Mamata in fiery speeches on the campaign trail.

He promised large cash transfers to the poor and expanded welfare

the anti-incumbent sentiment and whatever shortcomings there were in Banerjee's regime", said Mukhopadhyay.

Partha Tripathi, a Kolkata resident, said the TMC lost in West Bengal because of the "massive unemployment, corruption and lawlessness" in the state.

"Aspirational youth wanting jobs and more economic opportunity voted for the BJP. They wanted a change, change for a better life," Tripathi, 35, told AFP.

Another key issue was the revision of electoral rolls, formally intended to remove duplicate or ineligible voters.

But Banerjee called it a "mass



Mamata Banerjee, leader of Trinamool Congress, along with party leaders, addresses a press conference in Kolkata yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

benefits, as well as development and employment for the youth.

For Modi, this win could embolden him to further widen his Hindu nationalist agenda, including plans for a uniform civil code to replace religious laws – an initiative that has fuelled tensions and fears, especially among Muslims who say it would infringe on their freedoms.

Political analyst Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay said clinching West Bengal would push the BJP's vision of "Hindutva" – the belief that Hindus represent not only a religious group but India's true national identity.

"This is a huge boost to Modi and the BJP," he told AFP.

The party won "in a state where you have a fairly large, almost 30 percent Muslim population... and has been able to correctly harness

disenfranchisement exercise" affecting minorities, especially Muslims and migrant workers in districts bordering Bangladesh.

The BJP said it had benefitted from the TMC's failures – not the revision.

Political scientist Neelanjana Sircar wrote in The Hindustan Times that "the cultural and political impact of this victory for the BJP will be profound".

"Bengal was the last, and most important, piece of the Hindu nationalist project in the east," he added.

"A little more than a decade ago, who would have imagined that the major states of eastern and northeastern India – Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal – would all be under the BJP?"

Nepal PM backs banning party-linked unions, student groups

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's newly elected Prime Minister Balendra Shah yesterday rejected criticism of his ban on trade and student unions linked to political parties, insisting the move would not infringe on rights.

Shah, 36, a rapper-turned-politician, was elected in March in the first polls since deadly anti-corruption protests last year toppled the government.

On the recommendation of Shah's cabinet, President Ram Chandra Paudel issued ordinances over the weekend banning civil service trade unions and student organisations affiliated with political parties.

Student groups have opposed the decision and asked the government to reverse the ban.

"This is an effort to take the country out of party control and bring it to the institutional path," Shah said in a post on social media.

"This is an effort to free the school and bureaucracy from an infection of parties."

Lokesh Kumar Khadka, president of Free Student Union at Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, told AFP that "all the student unions condemn this decision, this is completely wrong".

"The prime minister is displaying a dictatorial nature by not giving space to free political ideology within universities," Khadka said.

Shah said in his post that no rights would be harmed, arguing the ban would enable campus groups to benefit students and employees rather than political parties.

It would also "strengthen professional freedom" by prioritising merit over "party affiliation" in public sector appointments and promotions, the PM added.

Khadka said that student unions have played a key role in Nepal's political history and would "continue protests in the streets" against actions they deem unjust.

Race to find port for virus-hit cruise ship

AFP, Praia

Health authorities were racing to find a port for a cruise ship battling a suspected hantavirus outbreak yesterday, as it remained off Cape Verde with passengers isolating after three people died.

The MV Hondius will head to Spain's Canary Islands, the World Health Organization said, though Spanish authorities said no decision would be made on which port would receive the ship until epidemiological data on board had been analysed.

The priority is to evacuate two crew members who require urgent care – potentially to the Netherlands – and "then the ship can move", the WHO epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention director Maria Van Kerkhove told reporters in Geneva.

So far, two hantavirus cases have been confirmed, and there have been five other suspected cases among the 147 people who were on the cruise from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cape Verde off west Africa, the WHO said.



Three of those people had died, while one was critically ill and three others had reported mild symptoms, it said.

Two of those who had died and one who was sickened had left the ship, with one woman flying to Johannesburg before dying on April 26, spurring a search for people she may have come in contact with on the flight.

Passengers and crew have meanwhile been in isolation on the Hondius, operated by Dutch company Oceanwide Expeditions, after Cape Verde authorities barred the ship from docking.

The WHO is working with Spanish authorities who "have said that they will welcome the ship to do... a full epidemiologic investigation," Van Kerkhove said.

They would also conduct a "full disinfection of the ship and of course, to assess the risk of the passengers that are actually on board," she added.

Spain's health ministry said a decision on where to send the boat would be taken based "on the epidemiological data collected from the ship during its stopover in Cape Verde".

The United Nations' health agency was scrambling for answers about how hantavirus had emerged on the Hondius, which set off from Ushuaia on April 1.

Bangladesh Bank

Head Office, Dhaka-1000

Date: 03/05/2026

Vacancy Announcement (Contractual): Director General The Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh (IBB)

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi Nationals for the position of Director General, The Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh (IBB).

The candidates should fulfill the following criteria:

- 2) Minimum Master Degree from a recognized University (Bangladeshi/foreign).
- 3) Minimum 25 years experience in banking sector preferably work experience in the position of Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank or Chief Executive Officer at any Bangladeshi bank.

Age Limit: Maximum 62 years as on 30th April, 2026.

The appointment will be for two years and may be extended on mutual agreement. Interested candidates are requested to submit application along with a CV on or before 04 June 2026 during office hour. Application should be addressed to Md. Sirajul Islam, Executive Director, 3rd Floor, Main Building, Bangladesh Bank and Member Secretary, Search Committee for appointment of Director General, IBB. The candidates in service are hereby advised to submit application through proper authority. Authority solely preserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications at any stage of selection process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Sirajul Islam
Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank
and
Member Secretary, Search Committee for selection of DG, IBB

GD-1017



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation
Purchase Section
Banashilpa Bhaban, 73, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.bfidc.gov.bd

Rubber wood is strong,
durable and of high
quality. You also use
rubber wood furniture.

Number: 22.03.0000.000.114.07.0006.24.6

Date: 05 May 2026

Re e-Tender Notice

Subject: Procurement of Stationary & Printing Items.

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods mentioned below:

e-Tender ID No	Description of goods	Last Selling Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1268943	Procurement of Stationary & Printing Items	11-May-2026 16:00	12-May-2026 14:00

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in 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 document from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

05-05-2026
Nahida Barik
Secretary
ফোন : 02223382119

GD-1044

ইমেইল : secretary@bfdc.gov.bd