FAST-MOVING WILDFIRES

60,000 ordered to evacuate from US city of Spokane

Hundreds of structures reduced to cinders

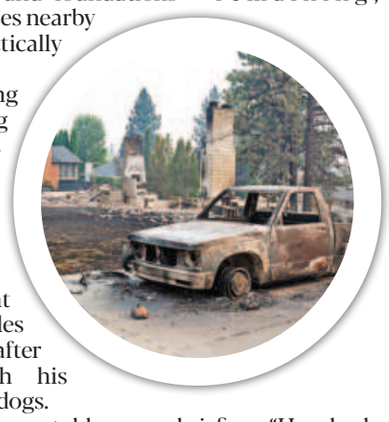
AFP, *Spokane*

Firefighters worked to contain huge blazes in the US city of Spokane in the east of Washington state early yesterday after officials reported hundreds of structures had been reduced to cinders.

About 60,000 people within Spokane's city limits have been evacuated under the authorities' highest-level alert, "Go Now," police chief Kevin Hall said.

The National Weather Service (NWS) had warned of "extremely critical fire weather conditions" in the area due to strong winds and exceptional dryness.

Video of the aftermath on Sunday showed scores of homes burned to the ground, with only their brick fireplaces and foundations remaining, while other houses nearby escaped practically unscathed.



"Just driving around looking at the homes -- it's just one of the most heartbreaking things I've ever seen in my life," Spokane resident Geoff Beadles told AFP, after evacuating with his fiancee and two dogs.

Mayor Lisa Brown told a press briefing: "Hundreds of homes and structures have been lost. We are still assessing the potential for lives to be lost."

"To the people who are suffering right now in our region from either loss or uncertainty... our hearts go out to you. We are here for you for the long term," she said. Fire officials said late Sunday that the blazes were still zero-percent contained.

And while more favorable weather, with only light winds, was forecast for yesterday, temperatures were expected to rise again later in the week. Smoke accumulating over the city would likely render air quality "very unhealthy" yesterday, the regional clear air agency said.

Sheriff John Nowels said no deaths or injuries had so far been reported. Washington Governor Bob Ferguson, who declared a state of emergency, said the state is enduring a fourth consecutive year of drought as climate change creates conditions conducive to destructive wildfires.



Firefighters work as a wildfire burns on Mount Kithairon, Greece, yesterday. Water-bombing aircraft resumed firefighting operations in Greece after winds eased, joining hundreds of firefighters battling multiple blazes that have already claimed five lives. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ukraine strikes Black Sea resort, Crimea

Six killed; Wildberries warehouses near Moscow hit again

AFP, *Moscow*

Ukrainian strikes on a Russian resort village and Moscow-annexed Crimea -- two summer destinations popular among Russian tourists -- killed six people, local officials said yesterday.

Three people were killed in the village of Arkhipo-Osipovka, on the Black Sea coast, "due to falling UAV (drone) debris", the governor of the Krasnodar region, Venyamin Kondratyev, said on Telegram.

"Another 13 people, including children, were wounded," Kondratyev said, adding that "the attack targeted civilian infrastructure".

Ukraine often fires hundreds of drones into Russia each night, in retaliation for Russia launching hundreds of its own drones and dozens of missiles at Ukrainian towns and cities.



Another Ukrainian overnight strike targeted a warehouse belonging to the Russian e-commerce giant Wildberries in the Vladimir region, about 180 kilometres east of Moscow, the company and local authorities reported yesterday.

"A fire broke out at one of the company's logistics sites in the Vladimir region following an attack," Wildberries said in a statement, adding that warehouse staff had been evacuated.

Regional governor Alexander Avdeyev said the attack was carried out by drones.

"There is damage and a fire," he posted on the Russian messaging app Max, adding that "a young man was injured".

Since mid-July, Ukraine has struck around 20 sites belonging to Wildberries across various parts of Russia and in annexed Crimea.

Heat triggers fire at arms depot in Iraq military base

AFP, *Baghdad*

Soaring temperatures caused a fire to erupt in an arms depot at a major military base north of Baghdad on Sunday, the Iraqi defence ministry said.

"A fire broke out in a warehouse at Camp Taji due to high temperatures," defence ministry spokesman Yehia Rasool said, adding that the depot contained "ammunition belonging to the 9th armoured division".

The government security media cell said "an explosion erupted inside Camp Taji and some ammunition detonated due to the heat". Firefighters are battling the fire, it said.

Camp Taji is a major Iraq military base that previously hosted troops from a US-led anti-jihadist coalition, before they vacated it, along with other bases.

Explosions at military bases and munitions warehouses are relatively frequent in Iraq.

Safety standards in Iraq are often disregarded, and fires increase during the blistering summer months, when temperatures approach 50C.

Saudi Arabia and the US carried out strikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq last week.

Detained Suu Kyi meets ICRC delegate in Myanmar

AFP, *Yangon*

Myanmar's detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with the Red Cross representative to the country yesterday, the humanitarian group said, the first publicised meeting between her and a foreign official since she was ousted in a 2021 coup.

The military deposed Suu Kyi in February 2021, jailing the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and triggering an ongoing civil war that has killed more than 100,000 people, according to monitor ACLED.

The coup leader and former junta chief, Min Aung Hlaing, was installed as civilian president in April following highly restricted elections. Suu Kyi's son, Kim Aris, welcomed her meeting with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), describing it as "an important first step" that brought hope.

Aris has sought independently verified proof that his mother is alive after she was transferred from prison to house arrest in April.

US ENERGY EMBARGO

Grid collapse plunges Cuba into blackout

The nation faces second power failure in 24 hrs

AFP, *Havana*

Cuba's power grid failed late on Sunday, causing another nationwide blackout, a state utility said in a social media post.

As the lights suddenly turned off across Havana, residents who were sat outside to get some respite from the summer heat audibly groaned en masse.



Cuba has been suffering rolling power cuts due to aging equipment and a US energy embargo that halted regular deliveries of fuel for power stations.

State-run UNE said there was a "total disconnection" of the national electricity system, plunging the country, including the capital, into abrupt darkness.

This is just the latest in a series of total collapses of the electricity grid. Just 24 hours ago, the whole west of the country went dark.

The power cuts have made normal life almost impossible, with each outage also meaning that water supplies trickle away and ceiling fans slow to a halt.

It is a growing strain for a society used to adversity but now stuck in a months-long crisis that has no obvious end in sight.

Residents in the worst-affected areas have vented their frustrations by setting piles on trash on fire or banging on pots and pans.

The Ministry of Energy said that protocols to reactivate the grid were underway. Washington has authorized the arrival of only one Russian tanker -- carrying 100,000 tons of crude -- which came in March. Those reserves have since been exhausted.

In addition to enacting an oil blockade, the Trump administration has ramped up sanctions against Cuban state-owned businesses, prompting many foreign firms to suspend operations in the country.

Death toll at Pak police station attack rises to 17

7 cops among dead; 34 hurt; TTP claims responsibility

REUTERS, *Peshawar*

At least 17 people were killed in a suspected suicide bombing outside a police station in northwestern Pakistan on Sunday, a rescue group and a regional police official said, as the country battles widening insurgencies.

The explosion took place in the Kabal area of Swat, a district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. A pro-police rally of local residents was taking place in the same area on Sunday evening, but it was not immediately clear whether the rally was the intended target.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group in a statement claimed responsibility for the attack.

At least 34 people were wounded in the explosion, according to a spokesperson for Rescue 1122.

The rescue official said the death toll rose to 17 from 14 after three victims died in hospital. The victims included seven police officers and 10 civilians. One of the dead persons was believed to be the suicide bomber, Fida Hussain, a regional police official, told Reuters.

Gunmen kidnap 52 in Nigeria

AFP, *Jos*

Gunmen kidnapped at least 52 people, including children, in a weekend attack on a village and military base in northwest Nigeria's Zamfara state, local sources said yesterday.

Kidnappings have become a major source of income for armed groups in Nigeria, including jihadists in the northeast and criminal gangs, who dominate much of the northwest. Zamfara is one of the hardest hit states.

The gunmen on motorcycles swept into Kasuwar Daji village in the Kaura Namoda around midnight Saturday into Sunday, first attacking a military base on the outskirts of the community, residents said.



Migrants wait outside Ceuta's temporary centre at full capacity after mass crossings by land and sea from Morocco into the Spanish territory, yesterday. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez in a letter to strengthen the bloc's borders at critical points. PHOTO: REUTERS

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
National Pension Authority (NPA)
Finance Division
Ministry of Finance,
www.npa.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders: Hiring of Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 03 Microbuses) for National Pension Authority

1	Ministry/Division	Finance Division, Ministry of Finance	
2	Agency	National Pension Authority (NPA)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	National Pension Authority (NPA)	
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Hiring of Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 03 Microbuses) and Transport Facilities for NPA	
7	Invitation Ref No	**07.04.0000.001.07.001.23-353**	
8	Date	03.08.2026	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering (National) for non-consulting services	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	The Government of Bangladesh and the NPA	
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Tender Package No	**NPA/NCS-01/FY2026-27**	
13	Tender Package Name	**Hiring of Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 03 Microbuses) for National Pension Authority**	
14	Tender Publication Date	04.08.2026	
15	Tender Last Selling Date	19.08.2026 up to 04.00 p.m.	
		Date	Time
16	Tender Closing Date and Time	20.08.2026	2:00 p.m.
17	Tender Opening Date and Time	20.08.2026	2:30 p.m.
18	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address: National Pension Authority (NPA), 43, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.	
19	Selling Tender Document	Agent's/office Name: Attention: Alamgir Hossain, Accounts Officer Address: National Pension Authority (NPA), 43, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Telephone no: +8802226663316 E-mail address: accountant@npa.gov.bd	
20	NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS		
21	Receiving Tender Document	A Tender Box will be kept at NPA Premises	
22	Opening Tender Document	NPA Conference Room, NPA, 43 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
23	Eligibility of Tenderer	Mentioned in the Tender Documents	
24	Brief Description of Goods or Works	N/A	
25	Brief Description of services	Hiring Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 2018 Model or updated, Engine minimum 1500 cc; 03 Microbuses, 2017 model or updated, Engine minimum 2000cc) and Transport Facilities for National Pension Authority (NPA)	
26	Price of Tender Document (Taka)	1000.00 (One thousand) Taka only (non refundable)	

27	Package No	Identification of item	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months/Days
	NPA/NCS-01/FY2026-27	Hiring Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 2018 Model or updated, Engine minimum 1500 cc; 03 Microbuses, 2017 model or updated, Engine minimum 2000cc) and Transport Facilities for National Pension Authority (NPA)	Mainly Dhaka City and occasionally outside of Dhaka.	BDT 1,80,000.00	Within 12 months from the date of contract signing

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
28	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Md. Suratuzzaman
29	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Chairman, NPA
30	Address of Official Inviting Tender	NPA Office, 43, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000
31	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	+8802226665743, **chairman@npa.gov.bd**
32	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever	

03.04.26

Executive Chairman
National Pension Authority (NPA)
Finance Division.