

Israel's latest strikes in Gaza kill 38 including children

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): Israeli strikes over the past 24 hours killed at least 38 people in Gaza, including a mother and her two children sheltering in a tent, local health officials said Sunday, with no data available for a second straight day from now-inaccessible hospitals in the north.

Further details also emerged of the local doctor who lost nine of her 10 children in an Israeli strike on Friday.

Gaza's Health Ministry said 3,785 people have been killed in the territory since Israel ended a ceasefire and renewed its offensive in March, vowing to destroy Hamas and return the 58 hostages it still holds from the October 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war.

Israel also blocked the import of all food, medicine and fuel for 2 1/2 months before letting a trickle of aid enter last week after experts' warnings of famine and pressure from some of Israel's top allies. Israel has been pursuing a new plan to tightly control all aid to Gaza, which the United Nations has rejected.

Israel also says it plans



People move past destroyed buildings as smoke billows following an Israeli strike in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip



A Palestinian boy stands outside a destroyed house that was targeted in an Israeli strike at the Nuseirat camp for refugees in the central Gaza Strip

to seize full control of Gaza and facilitate what it describes as the voluntary migration of much of its population of over 2 million

Palestinians, a plan rejected by Palestinians and much of the international community. Experts say it would likely violate international law.

The new strike on the tent housing displaced people that killed the mother and children occurred in the central city of Deir al-Balah, according to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. A strike in the Jabaliya area of northern Gaza killed at least five, including two women and a child, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Only one of paediatrician Alaa al-Najjar's 10 children survived the Israeli strike on their home Friday near the southern city of Khan Younis. Both the 11-year-old and al-Najjar's husband, also a doctor, were badly hurt.

The charred remains of the other children were brought to the morgue in a single body bag, said a fellow paediatrician at Nasser Hospital, Alaa al-Zayan.

The home was struck minutes after Hamdi al-Najjar had driven his wife to the hospital. His brother, Ismail al-Najjar, was the first to arrive at the scene.

"They were innocent children," the brother said, with the youngest 7 months old. "And my brother has no business with (Palestinian) factions."

9 terrorists killed by security forces in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PTI, PESHAWAR: Pakistani security forces have killed at least nine terrorists in three separate operations carried out in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military's media wing said on Sunday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in Dera Ismail Khan district.

During the conduct of the operation, the troops effectively engaged the terrorists and killed four of them.

Another intelligence-based operation was conducted in Tank district and in ensuing fire exchange, two more terrorists were killed.

In the third encounter that took place in Bagh, Khyber district, troops successfully neutralised three more terrorists, the ISPR said.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in these areas.

2 Pakistani nationals arrested in Texas for massive US visa fraud

PTI, HOUSTON: Two Pakistani nationals living in Texas have been arrested for allegedly masterminding a multi-year, large-scale visa fraud and money laundering scheme that helped numerous foreign nationals unlawfully enter and remain in the United States.

Abdul Hadi Murshid, 39, and Muhammad Salman Nasir, 35, were indicted on May 23 by a federal grand jury in the Northern District of Texas.

Charges include conspiracy to defraud the United States, visa fraud, money laundering conspiracy, and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations (RICO) conspiracy. Murshid also faces charges of unlawfully obtaining and attempt-

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ing to obtain US citizenship. "This was not merely a case of cutting corners. These defendants are alleged to have engineered an entire criminal enterprise to manufacture immigration benefits for profit," said Leigha Simonton, US Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, in an official statement.

According to the indictment, Murshid and Nasir exploited US visa programmes by submitting fraudulent applications based on fake job listings.

They placed classified

advertisements for non-existent jobs to satisfy Department of Labour requirements, enabling fraudulent labour certifications used to file petitions with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for EB-2, EB-3, and H-1B visas.

The operation involved entities such as Reliable Ventures, Inc. and the Law Offices of D. Robert Jones PLLC. Hundreds of petitions were filed claiming US-based businesses were sponsoring skilled foreign workers for jobs that did not exist.

India's NSA expected in Moscow for international security meet

PTI, MOSCOW: India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is expected here early next week to attend a major security meeting organised by Russia's Security Council.

Doval is invited for the 13th international meeting of high representatives for security issues on May 27-29 under the chairmanship

of the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Sergei Shoigu.

"Invitations to participate in the forum have been sent to more than 150 countries of the Global South and East, the CIS, Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries, as well as to the leadership of more than 20 international organisations," the Russian Security Council said in a release.

Like India, Pakistan is also a member of the SCO, and its NSA Lt Gen Asim Malik is also expected to be in Moscow for the meeting.

N Korea detains 3 shipyard officials over failed launch of naval destroyer

AP, SEOUL: North Korean authorities have detained three shipyard officials over the recent failed launch of a naval destroyer, an incident that leader Kim Jong Un said was caused by criminal negligence, state media said Sunday.

The 5,000-tonne-class destroyer was damaged Wednesday when a transport cradle on the ship's stern detached early during a launch ceremony attended by Kim at the northeastern port of Chongjin. Satellite imagery on the site showed the vessel lying on its side and draped in blue covers, with parts of the ship submerged.

The vessel is North Korea's second known destroyer. The failed launch was subsequently an embarrassment to Kim, who is eager to build greater naval

forces to deal with what he calls US-led military threats.

North Korea launched its first destroyer, also a 5,000-tonne-class ship, with massive fanfare last month. The ship is North Korea's largest and most advanced warship and state media reported it is designed to carry various weapons including nuclear missiles.

Law enforcement authorities detained the chief engineer, head of the hull construction workshop and deputy manager for administrative affairs at Chongjin Shipyard, who they said were responsible for Wednesday's failed launch, the official Korean Central News Agency said.

Hong Kil Ho, the shipyard manager, also was summoned for questioning, KCNA previously reported.

Kim blamed military officials, scientists and shipyard operators for what he called a "criminal act caused by absolute carelessness, irresponsibility and unscientific empiricism."

In an instruction to investigators Thursday, North Korea's powerful Central Military Commission echoed Kim's position, saying those responsible "can never evade their responsibility for the crime."

North Korea denied the warship suffered major damage, saying the hull on the starboard side was scratched and some seawater flowed into the stern section.

North Korea said Friday it needed about 10 days to make repairs, but many outside observers said the country likely understated the damage.

Uganda suspends military ties with Germany

AFP, NAIROBI: Uganda has "suspended" all military cooperation with Germany, its army said Sunday, claiming the German ambassador "engaged in subversive activities" in the east African country.

The army earlier accused some European embassies of supporting "negative and traitorous groups", singling out German ambassador Matthias Schauer. It followed reports that diplomats had criticised the behaviour of President Yoweri Museveni's son, Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is head of the army.

Kainerugaba, who is considered most likely to succeed his 80-year-old father as president, is known for his colourful social media posts.

He has frequently threatened members of the opposition online and recently boasted of kidnapping and torturing the bodyguard of the country.

Terrorism is shared problem, we must all fight it united: Tharoor at 9/11 Memorial in NYC

PTI, NEW YORK: An all-party delegation of Indian Parliamentarians, led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, visited the 9/11 memorial here and paid homage to the victims of the terror attacks, expressing solidarity and underlining that the world has to be united in the fight against the "shared problem" of terrorism.

Tharoor said that the visit to the 9/11 Memorial was in a spirit of solidarity and was a "very moving moment for us".

But it was also meant to send a very strong message that "we are here in a city, which is bearing still the scars of that savage terrorist attack, in the wake of yet another terrorist attack in our own country," a reference to the April 22 Pahalagam attack.

He said that, unlike the US, India has had to endure a "very much larger number of terrorist attacks."

"We came both as a reminder that this is a shared problem but also a spirit of solidarity with the victims, who included Indians...It's a global problem, a scourge, and we must all fight it united. That was a very important message to convey," he said on Saturday.

The delegation, which arrived in New York Saturday afternoon, visited the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in lower Manhattan and kept roses on some of the names of the victims etched on the Memorial Pool. A large number of members of the Indian diaspora were also present at 9/11 for the solemn event.

The all-party delegation will travel from New York to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, and Brazil before returning to Washington DC around June 3 as part of a diplomatic outreach aimed at projecting India's united

and resolute stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Other members of the delegation include Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Milind Murli Deora, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Shashank Mani Tripathi, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Ganti Harish Madhur and former Indian Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

The visit is part of India's broader engagement with key international partners, including the United States, to foster global cooperation in addressing terrorism.

Later speaking to the media at the 9/11 memorial site, Tharoor said that through the visit to these countries, "we are hoping to be able to explain to the world how important it is for all of us to stand together against the scourge of terrorism."

"Just as the US showed such resolution and determination in the wake of 9/11, so too our country has stood up against the forces of evil who attacked us" on April 22, he said, referring to the Pahalagam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed.

"We hope that a lesson has been learnt by those who perpetrated this attack and by those who finance, train, equip and direct them, but we want to communicate to the world that we will not be sitting quietly if this is repeated," Tharoor said.

Tharoor said India would much rather focus on its own growth and development.

"But if that is going to be thwarted, or attempted to be thwarted by malign people with weapons, then we will answer them in kind."

ASEAN must accelerate integration, stay united to tackle US tariffs, says Malaysia

AP, KUALA LUMPUR: Southeast Asian nations must accelerate regional economic integration, diversify their markets and stay united to tackle the fallout from global trade disruptions resulting from sweeping US tariff hikes, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan said Sunday.

Mohamad, opening a meeting of foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations, also reiterated the bloc's call to warring parties in Myanmar to cease hostilities in a deadly civil war that has killed thousands and displaced millions of people since a 2021 government takeover by the military.

"ASEAN nations are among those most heavily affected by the US-imposed tariffs. The US-China trade war is dramatically disrupting production and trade patterns worldwide. A

global economic slowdown is likely to happen," Mohamad said.

"We must seize this moment to deepen regional economic integration, so that we can better shield our region from external shocks."

ASEAN countries, many of which rely on exports to the US, are reeling from tariffs imposed by the Trump administration ranging

from 10% to 49%. Six of the association's 10 member nations were among the worst-hit with tariffs ranging from 32% to 49%.

ASEAN unsuccessfully sought an initial meeting with the US as a bloc. When US President Donald Trump last month announced a 90-day pause on the tariffs, countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam swiftly began trade negotiations with Wash-

ington.

The meeting of foreign ministers preceded a planned ASEAN leaders' summit Monday in Malaysia, the bloc's current chair. A summit is expected to follow on Tuesday with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

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MET DEPT DECLARES ONSET OF SOUTHWEST MONSOON IN GOA

According to the IMD, between May 15 and 21, North Goa district received 6.69 inches of rainfall, while South Goa received 7.93 inches of rainfall.

The average rainfall in the State during the period stood at 7.35 inches.

According to the IMD, since March 1 till May 25, the rainfall received by various rain gauge stations across the State is as follows: Mapusa - 19.34 inches, Pernem (16.64 inches), Ponda (16.53 inches), Panjim (16.10 inches), Old Goa (16.81 inches), Sankhali (16.2 inches), Valpoi (12.5 inches), Dharbandora (21.9 inches), Canacona (13.2 inches),

Dabolim (20.6 inches), Margao (22.1 inches), Mormugao (20 inches), Quepem (18.9 inches) and Sanguem (16.8 inches).

MINISTER GAUDE ADMITS CORRUPTION IN OWN GOVT

He demanded the Tribal Bhavan be completed before 2026.

Reacting to Gaudé's statements, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) Vice President Sunil Kawthankar called on Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to issue an immediate clarification. Kawthankar wrote on social media, "@DrPramodPSawant must immediately clarify on state-ment of Minister @Govind_Gaude and resign, taking responsibility of failed Governance, @BJP4Goa gutter of Corruption is overflowing with Ministers now confirming cash for files, following ex ministers and Speakers allegations."

This is not the first time Gaudé has publicly criticised the Tribal Welfare Department. Last year, an audio clip allegedly featuring a phone conversation between Minister

Gaude and Tribal Welfare Department Director Dashrath Redkar circulated widely. In the clip, Gaude was purportedly heard pressuring Redkar to release financial assistance for an ST/SC awareness programme to a specific organisation.

The allusion was to Aishwarya, the granddaughter of Daroga Prasad Rai, who tied the knot with Tej Pratap Yadav in 2018 but left his house a few months later, alleging that she was driven out by her husband and in-laws.

BJP leader Nikhil Anand claimed, "Lalu Prasad has tried to save the reputation of his family and his party by acting against his elder son. But they can still not be absolved of the ill-treatment meted out to Aishwarya."

LALU EXPELS SON TEJ PRATAP FROM RJD, FAMILY

He made no mention of the previous day's happenings, but criticised his elder son's actions, public conduct and "irresponsible behaviour", saying "disregard for moral values in personal life weakens our collective struggle to achieve social justice".

He admonished Yadav for behaving in a manner "not in consonance with the values of my family" and declared that "he shall have no role, henceforth, in the party and the family. He is expelled from the party for six years".

The development came with barely a few months left for the Bihar assembly polls, which the RJD will fight under the leadership of Prasad's younger son, Tejashwi Yadav.

Born to Prasad and Rabri Devi, both former chief ministers of Bihar, the brother duo is among four of nine siblings active in politics.

The couple's eldest child, Misa Bharti, is the party MP from Patliputra, while another daughter, Rohini Acharya, made an unsuccessful maiden attempt from Saran in the

Lok Sabha polls last year.

The remaining five siblings, all sisters, have so far not entered politics, though one of them, Hema Yadav, has been named in the land for jobs scam pertaining to Prasad's tenure as railway minister in the UPA government.

Both Hema and Tej Pratap were granted bail in the case, which the ED is probing, by a Delhi court in March this year.

When Tejashwi Yadav, the former deputy chief minister, was asked about what was the proverbial last straw, he gave a guarded response but minced no words in stating "things have not been to my liking".

"My elder brother is an adult. He is free to make any choice in his personal life. But there are certain things we cannot tolerate. And this is what our national president has asserted in his post," said Yadav, the leader of the opposition in the state assembly.

Tej Pratap Yadav had made his political debut in the assembly polls of 2015, and is a second-term MLA with two brief stints in the state cabinet. In his first term, he represented the Mahua assembly segment, but was made to shift base to Hasanpur five years later because of a general perception that he was not very popular with voters. Unlike his younger brother, who has since emerged as the most popular politician of his generation in the State, Tej Pratap Yadav has been in the news for all the wrong reasons.

A few months ago, he made headlines for threatening a policeman in his security detail with suspension upon refusal to dance as per his command and speeding on a two-wheeler without wearing a helmet.

Earlier, he had been in the news for an ugly marital dispute, besides antics like supporting rebels in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, floating a parallel outfit "Lalu Rabri Morcha" and occupying the chair reserved for the national president while at the RJD office.

Reacting to the turmoil in RJD, JD(U) spokesperson

Neeraj Kumar said, "Lalu Prasad has used a jack to salvage his reputation after his elder son tried to cover up his misdeemeanour with the claim that his Facebook page had been hacked."

"But Lalu Prasad must remember that he will still be charged with dynasty rule and keeping mum when his daughter-in-law, a grandchild of a former CM, was humiliated," he said.

PLAYING CARDS FOR RECREATION WITHOUT GAMBLING IS NOT MORAL TURPITUDE, SUPREME COURT

"The judgement of the high court as well as the orders passed by the authorities under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1959 are set aside and the election of the appellant to the Board of Directors of the Government Porcelain Factory Employees Housing Co-operative Society Ltd. (respondent No.3) is restored till he completes his prescribed tenure," the top court said.

At the outset, the top court noted that Hanumantharayappa was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society by securing the highest votes and his election was held on February 12, 2020.

Sri Ranganath B, who lost the election, raised an election dispute before the joint registrar of cooperative societies, inter alia, alleging that the appellant was convicted in a criminal case for the offence punishable under Section 87 of the Karnataka Police Act, 1963 allegedly for gambling.

Hanumantharayappa was held guilty of an offence involving moral turpitude and his election was set aside in view of Section 17(1) of the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1959. The high court also upheld the decision of setting aside his election after which Hanumantharayappa approached the top court.