



6 dead in landslide in eastern China, as severe weather warning extended



Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Dubai, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, and Washington.

Dozens killed in Israeli attacks on 2 Gaza cities

20 dead in strike on house in Gaza City, says a Palestinian civil defence agency; Separate attack kills 25 near Rafah

JERUSALEM

HEALTH officials in Gaza said Israeli air strikes in two neighbourhoods of Gaza City on Saturday killed at least 24 people and injured many others.

At least 20 people were killed in a strike on a house in Al-Tuffah neighbourhood, while a strike in Al-Shati refugee camp claimed the lives of four others, Gaza civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Basal told AFP.

Doctor Mahmud Aliwa of Al-Ahli hospital said 24 bodies were brought to the facility after the strikes.

Earlier on Saturday the Israeli military said its fighter jets were striking "two Hamas military infrastructure sites in the area of Gaza City."

"Israeli aircraft bombed a residential complex in Al-Shati camp... we recovered bodies of four victims," Basal said.

In a separate attack, Israeli forces shelled tent camps for displaced Palestinians outside Gaza's southern city of Rafah, killing at least 25 people and



People run for cover as smoke billows over the Gaza City's eastern suburb of Shejaiya after Israeli bombing on Saturday | AFP

wounding another 50, according to the territory's health officials and emergency workers.

This was the latest deadly attack in southern Gaza Strip,

where hundreds of thousands have fled fighting between Israel and Hamas.

It comes less than a month after an Israeli bombing triggered a deadly fire that tore

through a camp for displaced Palestinians in southern Gaza, drawing widespread international outrage — including from some of Israel's closest allies. Agencies



TOLL SO FAR

39,239 Israeli man shot dead in West Bank

An Israeli was shot dead in a Palestinian town in the northern West Bank on Saturday morning, Israel's army said.

Massive overnight Russian attack on Ukraine power infra

KYIV

UKRAINE on Saturday said Russia had launched a "massive" overnight attack on energy infrastructure in the west and south, adding that at least seven people died from Moscow strikes elsewhere.

Russia launched 16 cruise missiles from land, sea and air as well as 13 attack drones, aiming at energy infrastructure in several regions, Ukraine's military said. Air defences downed all but four of them, it added.

Russia's defence ministry said that its troops "carried out a group strike with long-range high-precision weaponry from air and sea and also drones on Ukrainian energy facilities that power arms production".

It said it also targeted warehouses containing munitions and "air-launched weapons provided to the Ukrainian military by western countries". "All the set targets were hit,"

WEST PROVOKED WAR, SAYS NIGEL FARAGE

London: Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's anti-immigration Reform UK party, faced strong criticism Saturday after saying that the West provoked Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In an interview with the BBC on Friday, Farage said "we've provoked this war", while adding that "of course" it was Russian president Vladimir Putin's "fault". Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told reporters that Farage's claim was "completely wrong"

the ministry said, calling its latest attacks retaliation for Ukrainian attacks on its own energy network.

The Ukrainian energy ministry said this was Russia's "eighth massive, combined attack on energy infrastructure facilities" in the past three months, targeting the southern Zaporizhzhia region and Lviv in the west. AFP

Israeli women rush to buy guns

With many Israelis gripped by a sense of insecurity following Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack, the number of women applying for gun permits has soared, while feminist groups have criticised the rush to arms



TO OWN A GUN IN ISRAEL, ONE MUST

- 1 Be a citizen or permanent resident
2 Be 18 years old or above
3 Have a basic command of Hebrew
4 Have medical clearance

Loosening of gun laws

The surge in applications for gun permit has been enabled by the loosening of gun laws under Israel's right-wing government and its far-right security minister Itamar Ben Gvir

42,000 applications by women for gun permits since October 7 Hamas attack
18,000 applications approved, tripling number of women gun owners
15,000 women civilians now own a firearm in Israel and the occupied West Bank

I would have never thought of buying a weapon or getting a permit, but since October 7, things changed a little bit - Limor Gonen, professor

Illegal Mecca trips: Egypt strips licences of 16 tour firms

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on Saturday ordered 16 tourism companies stripped of their licences and referred their managers to the public prosecutor's office for illegally facilitating pilgrims' travel to Mecca, the cabinet said.

The order came after various countries reported more than 1,100 deaths, many attributed to high heat, during this year's Haj. Arab diplomats told AFP earlier this week that Egyptians accounted for 658 deaths, 630 of them unregistered pilgrims.

"The prime minister has ordered the licences of these com-



Pilgrims use umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun as they arrive to cast stones at pillars in the symbolic stoning of the devil | AP FILES

panies to be revoked, their managers to be referred to the public prosecutor and the imposition of a fine to benefit the families of the pilgrims who died because of them," the Egyptian cabinet said. It said the rise in the deaths of unregistered Egyptian pilgrims stemmed from some companies which "organised the Haj programmes using a personal visit visa, which prevents its holders from entering Mecca" via official channels. On Friday a senior Saudi official defended the Gulf kingdom's management of the pilgrimage. Haj permits are allocated to countries on a quota system and distributed to individuals via a lottery. AFP

BEATING THE ODDS

Vocational school student stuns varsity competitors in China

BEIJING

A 17-year-old vocational school student from rural region in China became a celebrity on social media after reaching the final round of a math competition, beating many others from top universities and raising questions about the country's education system.

Jiang Ping, who is studying fashion design, finished 12th in the Alibaba Global Math Competition, one of 802 who made it to the final round an eight-hour test that takes place Saturday.

A video that included an interview with Jiang got more than 8,00,000 likes and 90,000 comments after it was posted on social media by Damo Academy, the organiser of the contest. Most expressed their amazement, while some questioned if it was real. Jiang, who couldn't be reached for comment, says in the video interview that she didn't think she deserved to join the competition, even though she enjoys working on advanced math as it "brings out my desire to explore."

Congratulations poured in. People visited her parents' home in a village in Jiangsu province on China's east coast with alcohol and money to show support. Her pictures were shown on the walls of shopping malls in her hometown, Lianshui. Zhejiang University and Jiangsu University praised her on their Weibo accounts.

While it was unclear how Jiang ended up in vocational school, her story still reminded some in China of the inequality between rural and urban areas and how that can make it harder for even talented students to climb the economic ladder. "While Jiang Ping is openly celebrated, many Chinese feel deep down inside that her story highlights the hopelessness of Chinese education," said a China-based education researcher.

Inequality in education appears to have worsened in recent years. Spending on education in rural areas was 17 per cent less than in cities in 2019 for the nine years of compulsory education in China. AP

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED advertisement containing detailed information about an auction sale, including terms and conditions, contact details, and a table of bid increments.

UNION BANK OF INDIA, REGIONAL OFFICE KOZHIKODE advertisement containing details about an E-Auction Sale for immovable assets, including property descriptions, reserve prices, and terms of sale.