

Army units detonate suspicious devices to mitigate Lebanon risk

Unprecedented blow, admits Hezbollah chief, warns of retaliation



(Above) Lebanese army preparing to destroy in a controlled explosion a communication device (right) found on the ground on Thursday | AFP

BEIRUT

AS Lebanon continues to be gripped by fear of further electronic devices exploding, the authorities are trying to mitigate the risk, *BBC News* reported.

“Specialised army units are detonating suspicious pagers and communication devices in different areas,” the army said in a post on X.

Controlled explosions like these were also carried out last night, and the army is continuing to urge citizens to steer clear of sites where detonations are happening and to report any “suspicious device or

object”. Lebanon’s Health Minister Firass Abiad said 37 people were killed and more than 3,500 wounded in a new toll after hand-held devices used by Hezbollah members exploded across Lebanon, in attacks blamed on Israel.

Abiad said 25 people were killed on Wednesday and 12 on Tuesday, updating an earlier toll of 32 dead overall.

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah acknowledged on Thursday his powerful group had suffered an “unprecedented” blow when thousands of operatives’ communication devices exploded in attacks it blamed on Israel.

Delivering a speech Nasrallah struck a defiant tone and warned of retaliation. Describing the attacks as a possible “act of war”, he said Israel would face “tough retribution and just punishment, where it expects it and where it does not”. Even as he delivered his televised address, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut.

Israel said Thursday it bombed Hezbollah sites in Lebanon, piling pressure on the militant group already reeling after a series of deadly explosions targeting its communications systems that it blamed on Israel.



In the latest cross-border fire, the Israeli military said it struck six Hezbollah “infrastructure sites” and a weapons storage facility in southern Lebanon overnight.

The exchanges of fire have also forced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border to flee their homes.

Hezbollah on Thursday said 20 of its members had been killed, with a source close to the group saying they had died when their walkie-talkies exploded a day earlier.

Some panic-stricken Lebanese have tossed power banks, or sleep with mobile phones in another room. *AFP*



Donald Trump

Biden rejected dirt on Trump offered by Iran hackers: FBI

WASHINGTON

IRANIAN hackers sought to interest President Joe Biden’s campaign in information stolen from rival Donald Trump’s campaign, sending unsolicited emails to people connected to the Democratic president in an effort to interfere in the 2024 election, the FBI and other federal agencies said.

There’s no evidence that any of the recipients responded, officials said, preventing the hacked information from surfacing in the final months of the closely contested election.

The hackers sent emails in late June and early July to people who were associated with Biden’s campaign before he dropped out. The emails “contained an excerpt taken from stolen, non-public material from Trump’s campaign as text in the emails,” according to a US government statement.

The announcement is the latest effort to call out what officials say is Iran’s brazen, ongoing work to interfere in the 2024 election, including a hack-and-leak campaign that the FBI and other federal agencies linked last month to Tehran. The Justice Department has been preparing charges in that breach.

The FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency have said the Trump campaign hack and an attempted breach of the Biden-Harris campaign are part of an effort to undermine voters’ faith in the election and to stoke discord.

The Trump campaign disclosed on Aug 10 that it had been hacked and said Iranian actors had stolen and distributed sensitive internal documents. At least three news outlets were leaked confidential material from inside the Trump campaign.

Central Europe flooding extends to parts of Italy, forcing evacuations

WARSAW

A massive flood wave moving across Central Europe was threatening new areas and raising concerns among residents and leaders. It also prompted European Union head Ursula von der Leyen to plan a visit to the region on Thursday.

Heavy rains also caused flooding and evacuation of some 1,000 residents in the northern Italian region of Emilia-Romagna.

The death toll was rising in Central Europe, as receding waters were revealing the huge scale of the destruction caused by exceptionally heavy rains that began a week ago.

Czech Interior Minister Vít Rakusan said the death toll had risen to five in the hard-hit northeast Czech Republic, and that eight were still missing. That brings the death toll so far to 24 in the region.

Authorities have also reported seven deaths each in Poland and Romania, and five in Austria.

Authorities across the affected region have deployed their militaries. In the two hardest-hit regions in the



The Lamone river overflows its banks near Bagnacavallo, in the region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy, on Thursday | AP

northeast Czech Republic, troops joined firefighters and other emergency officials to help residents with cleanup and recovery efforts. Army helicopters have been used to distribute humanitarian help while soldiers are building temporary bridges after many were destroyed in the flooding.

Some 400 people remain in evacuation centres in the regional capital of Ostrava and are not able yet to return home. In the country’s southwest near the border with Austria, the

water level of the Lužnice River has reached an extreme level but the evacuation of 1,000 people in the town of Veselí nad Lužnicí was not necessary for the moment, officials said.

Further to the south, in Hungary, flood waters continued to rise on Thursday as authorities shut down roadways, rail stations and ferries along the Danube River. In Budapest, water spilled over the city’s lower quays and threatened to reach transport infrastructure like trams and metro lines. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Residents support death penalty for serious crimes: Poll

Singapore: More residents support the use of the death penalty for most serious crimes, as per the findings of a 2023 MHA survey, CNA reported. The findings said 77.4% people strongly agreed or agreed with the use of the death penalty for murder and drug trafficking.

Artificial intelligence devpt should not be left to market forces

United Nations: The development of artificial intelligence should not be guided by market forces alone, UN experts said on Thursday, calling for the creation of tools for global cooperation. But they held back from suggesting the creation of a muscular worldwide governing body to oversee the rollout and evolution of a technology, the proliferation of which has raised fears around biases and misuse.

Karnataka Gramin Bank (A Scheduled Bank owned by Government. Sponsored by Canara Bank)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding implementation of computer increment in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

Under the directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court vide order passed in Contempt Petition No. 1798/2018, the Government has reconsidered the decision to implement computer increment in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and has decided to make it effective from 01.11.1993.

Now, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has conveyed for implementation and grant of computer increment to all employees of RRBs who were in service/ probation as on 01.11.1993 as per the Supplementary Memorandum of Settlement dated 29.10.1993 between Indian Banks’ Association and Employees Associations of Nationalized Commercial Banks, w.e.f. 01.11.1993, along with payment of arrears thereof.

Therefore, through this public notice it is informed to all such employees, who were in the Bank’s service/probation on 01.11.1993 and are not currently drawing pay or pension, have been dismissed/deceased, have taken compulsory retirement/ resigned or their legal heirs to apply for the said computer increment through email id pw.staff@kgb.in & pw.salary@kgb.in or by personal visit to Head Office, Ballari. The last date for submission of application is 24.09.2024.

Application form is available on bank website (<https://www.karnatakagraminbank.com>)

Place : Ballari

Date : 19.09.2024

Sd/- General Manager

HR Wing, KGB HO, Ballari

70

People killed in the jihadis

attacks in Mali capital

70



GLOBAL

WEATHER

LR: Light Rain SNY: Heavy Rain

HC: Thunderstorm LC: Light Cloud

SNY: Sunny

TDS: Windy

Wind

Cloudy

Cloud