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Over 100 Burkina Faso soldiers die in attack by al-Qaida affiliate

Ouagadougou: An al-Qaida affiliate claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on Tuesday that killed more than 100 Burkina Faso soldiers in Mansila, in the northeastern part of the country, the SITE Intelligence Group said on Sunday.

Four die after vehicle in ex-Malawian vice prez's funeral convoy rams into mourners

Lilongwe: Four people, including a pregnant woman, were killed in Ntcheu district in southern Malawi after a vehicle rammed into mourners taking part in former Malawian Vice President Saulos Chilima's funeral procession, local media reported on Monday.

Eight die in landslide in central Ecuador

Quito: At least eight people died and three injured Sunday in a landslide on a major road in Ecuador's central Tungurahua province, local authorities said.

8 die from suffocation in cold chain vehicle in central China

Zhengzhou: Eight people were confirmed dead due to suffocation in a refrigerated truck in central China's Henan Province early Sunday, a local investigation team said.

3 members killed by electric shock in Vietnam's southern province

Hanoi: Three people from a family died from an electrical shock in Vietnam's southern province of An Giang, local police confirmed on Monday morning.

349 prisoners pardoned in Afghanistan before Eid

Kabul: The Afghan caretaker government's Supreme Leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, has pardoned 349 inmates before Eid ul-Adha, according to a statement from the country's Supreme Court on Saturday.

UKPNP demands release of PoJK activists arrested on 'fake' terrorism charges

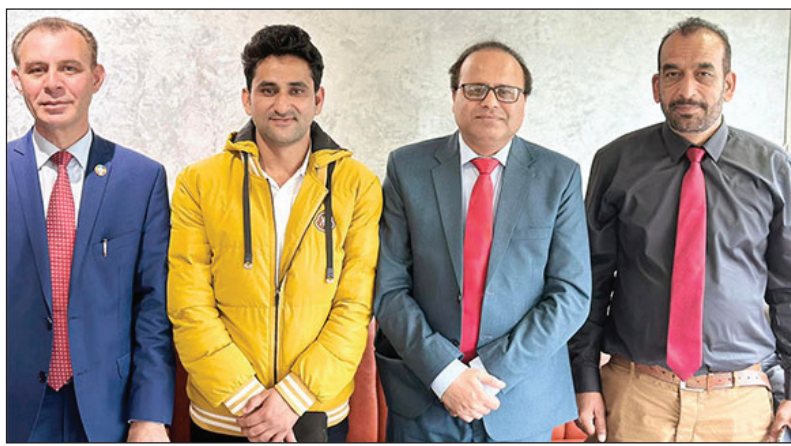
Agencies, Brussels

The United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) recently held a significant meeting in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss the plight of people in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) and highlight the challenges faced by the region.

They demanded the release of PoJK activists who have been arrested on "fake" terrorism charges.

The meeting was attended by party leaders Jameel Maqsood, Sajid Hussain, Aqeel Ahmed, and Abdul Basit. The leaders reiterated that UKPNP's revolutionary ideology and manifesto are the path to restoring the rights of the people of PoJK.

They accused Pakistan and its



facilitators of disrupting the peaceful atmosphere in PoJK through

tactics such as firing, imprisonment, and torture against the lead-

ers of the Jammu Kashmir Awami Action Committee.

The UKPNP strongly condemned the arrests of Sardar Shabbir, Sardar Aman, Talha Advocate, and Chaudhry Shakeel Advocate, labelling these actions as "terrorism." The party demanded the immediate release of these leaders and warned of severe consequences for Pakistan and its agents if their demands were not met.

UKPNP leaders vowed to bring attention to state violence in international forums, including the United Nations and various human rights organisations. They accused Pakistan of illegally occupying parts of Jammu and Kashmir and conspiring to create internal conflicts to maintain its control.

5 terrorists killed in NW Pakistan

Islamabad: Five terrorists were killed in an operation by security forces in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday, a military statement said.

The security forces launched the operation in Khyber tribal district in the province on the reported presence of the terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistani military, said in the statement.

"During the conduct of the operation, the troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, killing five terrorists," the statement added.

9 killed by Israeli airstrike in central Gaza

Gaza (UNI)

At least nine Palestinians were killed by an Israeli airstrike on the Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza on the first day of Eid al-Adha, Palestinian medical sources said on Sunday.

The airstrike targeted two residential houses, killing nine people, including six children, and injuring several others who were then taken to the hospital, said medical sources who require anonymity.

As of Sunday, the Palestinian death toll from the ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 37,337, with 85,299 injuries, the Hamas-run health authorities in Gaza said.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee said in a statement on Sunday that fighting continued in the southern Gaza Strip, including in the southernmost



Gazan city of Rafah. He also confirmed that the road through which goods pass will be open during daylight hours for the passage of humanitarian aid only. Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct. 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage.

4 killed, 2 missing after torrential rains in E China

Fuzhou (UNI)

Four people were killed, and two others are missing after landslides caused by torrential rains swept through Wuping County, east China's Fujian Province, according to local authorities on Monday.

As of Monday afternoon, a total of 47,800 people in Wuping, Longyan City have been impacted by the downpours starting from June 16. Several towns in Shanghang County suffered road damage and partial interruption of communication and power due to prolonged heavy rainfall.

The local flood control headquarters in Wuping initiated a Level I emergency response for heavy rain. China has a four-tier flood-control emergency response system, with Level I being



the most severe. The highest 24-hour rainfall in Wuping reached 372.4 millimeters. In Guangxi, people were taken to emergency shelters. Footage showed people paddling on flooded streets in rubber dinghies and carrying elderly people

Pannun murder plot: Indian national Nikhil Gupta extradited to US from Czech Republic

Agencies, Washington

Indian national Nikhil Gupta, who is accused of being involved in the alleged failed murder plot of India-designated pro-Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun in New York City has been extradited from the Czech Republic to the US to stand trial, NBC News reported.

A US District Court spokesperson said Gupta is scheduled to appear in the lower Manhattan courthouse on federal murder-for-hire charges on Monday, the American broadcaster said. The US Justice Department has alleged that Gupta (52) is an associate of the Indian government and that together they and others helped plot the assassination of Pannun in New York City, NBC News reported.

In November last year, US Justice



Department officials announced charges against Gupta after he was arrested in June 2023 in the Czech Republic. They said Gupta would face extradition to New York. Pannun is an India-designated terrorist who holds American and Canadian citizenship.

Earlier in November, the US Justice Department unsealed an indictment against an Indian national for his al-

leged involvement in a foiled plot to assassinate a US-based leader of the Sikh Separatist Movement and a citizen in New York.

The Justice Department claimed that an Indian government employee (named CC-1), who was not identified in the indictment filed in a federal court in Manhattan, recruited an Indian national named Nikhil Gupta to hire a hitman to carry out the assassination, which was foiled by US authorities, according to prosecutors. In its indictment, the Justice Department has claimed that earlier last year, an Indian government employee working together with others, including Gupta, directed a plot to assassinate a political activist who is a US citizen of Indian origin residing in New York City.

At least 2 killed in mine collapse in central Iran

Tehran (UNI)

At least two people were killed and another two remained trapped after a mine collapsed in the central Iranian province of Markazi on Sunday, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported. The mine collapsed at around 10:00 a.m. local time (0630 GMT) in Shazand County, when the drivers of two tip trucks and two excavators were inside the mine, according to IRNA. Two bodies have been pulled from the debris and search was underway for the other two individuals, IRNA reported. Managing Director of Markazi province's Red Crescent Society Alireza Shahjerdi said there were "massive" amount of debris, noting that his society had sent 14

rescue teams to the mine.

The four were trapped inside the mine due to a landslide, which occurred probably due to "unprincipled" explosions at the mine and the rainfall the day before, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency. The owner of the mine had been arrested following a judicial order, Mehdi Hashtroudi, Shazand County's public prosecutor, was quoted by Tasnim as saying. In a phone call with the Provincial Governor of Markazi Farzad Mokhlesolaemeh on Sunday, Iran's Interim President Mohammad Mokher called for the acceleration of the rescue operations, according to a statement published on the website of the Iranian president's office.

One killed, 6 injured in Israeli airstrikes on Lebanese villages

Beirut (UNI)

A woman was killed, and six other civilians, including children, were injured on Sunday in Israeli airstrikes on Lebanese villages in southern Lebanon, Lebanese medical and military sources told Xinhua.

The sources, who spoke anonymously, said that the woman was killed in an airstrike in the village of Kafra in the Bint Jbeil district, while six other civilians were injured in the village of Chaqra in the Nabatieh Governorate.

An official medical source in the city of Bint Jbeil told Xinhua that the Lebanese Red Cross and Civil Defense vehicles transported the body of a Lebanese woman and six injured people, including three children, to Bint Jbeil Governmen-

tal Hospital.

Lebanese military sources said that Israeli drones and warplanes carried out eight raids on five border towns and villages in southern Lebanon on Sunday.

They added that Israeli drones also dropped incendiary bombs on the vicinity of four towns and villages in the eastern and central sectors, which led to several fires that devoured large forest areas before the Civil Defense and the Lebanese Army were able to extinguish them.

Tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border escalated on Oct. 8, 2023, following a barrage of rockets launched by the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah toward Israel in solidarity with Hamas' attack on Israel the day before.

Wildfire forces 1,200 people to evacuate in US' Southern California

Los Angeles (UNI)

A fast-moving wildfire has burned over 12,200 acres (about 49.4 square km) overnight in Southern California, forcing at least 1,200 people to evacuate from a popular recreation area, authorities said Sunday.

The wind-driven wildfire, dubbed the Post Fire, started Saturday afternoon in Gorman, about 100 km north of Los Angeles, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

The blaze was 2 percent contained as of Sunday afternoon and has damaged two structures.

Cal Fire warned in a Sunday update that "slightly higher temperatures and lower humidity are ex-



pected to continue through the weekend, residents are reminded to remain vigilant and be prepared to evacuate if fire activity changes."

The South Coast Air Quality

Management District issued a smoke advisory, urging residents in the area impacted by smoke to limit their exposure by remaining indoors or seeking alternate shelter.

As temperatures soar, six Haj pilgrims die from heatstroke in Mecca

Riyadh (NI)

Six people lost their lives from heatstroke during the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca, CNN reported on Sunday.

The Jordanian foreign ministry confirmed Saturday that all six deceased were Jordanians and that the country was coordinating with Saudi officials in Jeddah on burial procedures and the probable return of their bodies to Jordan.

The news of the fatalities comes as pilgrims gathered atop Mount Arafat on Saturday, commemorating the pilgrimage's main event.

The Saudi General Authority for Statistics reported that over 1.8 million pilgrims will perform Haj this year.

The Haj is one of the world's largest religious gatherings and the major annual event in Saudi

Arabia. It is considered one of the five pillars of Islam.

This year, Saudi Arabia is experiencing excessive heat throughout the five-day pilgrimage, with temperatures hitting 48 degrees Celsius in Mecca.

According to the state news agency SPA, Haj officials are advising pilgrims to bring umbrellas and stay hydrated under extreme weather conditions. The Saudi army has also dispatched over 1,600 soldiers, including medical units specialised for heatstroke and 30 rapid response teams, according to CNN. Another 5,000 health and first aid volunteers are taking part. Jordan had said that its official delegation this year consisted of over 4,000 pilgrims.

However, the foreign ministry confirmed that the six who

died were not members of the "official delegation," which meant they lacked proper Hajj licences to conduct the journey, according to CNN.

The pilgrimage consists of various elaborate rites, such as wearing unique clothing that represents human equality and unity before God, a round, counter-clockwise march around the Kaaba, and the symbolic stoning of wickedness. People who have completed the pilgrimage might add the words al-Haj or hajji (pilgrim) to their names.

Saudi Arabia has committed billions of dollars over the last decade to improve transportation, technology, and accommodations for Haj pilgrims, which are a major source of revenue for the world's largest oil producer.

Hajj pilgrims perform Tawaf Al-Ifadah

Agencies, Mina (Saudi Arabia)

The pilgrims performed Tawaf Al-Ifadah (circumambulation) on Monday amid a system of services inside the Grand Mosque. Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said that the General Presidency of the Care of the Two Holy Mosques Affairs and other concerned authorities organised pilgrims' entry to the Grand Mosque through specific doors for each group of pilgrims to perform the Tawaf around the Holy Kaaba, which contributed to the flow and facilitation of pilgrims' movement.

