

USD	01	GBP	01	EUR	1000	PKR	1000
AFN	80.00	AFN	100.87	AFN	100.00	AFN	512

EUR	01	INR	1000	JPY	1000	AED	01
AFN	94.97	AFN	8.37	AFN	2122		



Over 400,000 in Tigray suffering famine now, with 1.8m on brink



More than 400,000 people in Ethiopia's Tigray are now suffering from famine and 1.8 million others are on the brink, a top United Nations official has said, painting a devastating picture of an embattled region where humanitarian access is extremely restricted.

Tigray has been racked by conflict since November 2020 when fighting erupted between Ethiopia's federal government and the region's self-declared government, backed by troops from neighboring Eritrea and fighters from Ethiopia's Amhara region - and forces loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the northern region's ruling coalition.

The UN Security Council held its first public meeting on the conflict on Friday, days after the fighting broke in a stunning new development, which the regional capital, Mekele.

Amid UN aid chief Ramachandran's call for a ceasefire, the humanitarian situation in Tigray had "worsened dramatically" in 10 recent weeks, with an increase from 500,000 to the number of people now facing famine, "more than 400,000 people are estimated to have crossed the threshold into famine and another 1.8 million people are even higher," UN officials said.

"Two million people are still displaced and close to 5.2 million people still require humanitarian assistance. The great majority are women and children. One of the most alarming trends is the increasing risk of food insecurity and hunger due to conflict."

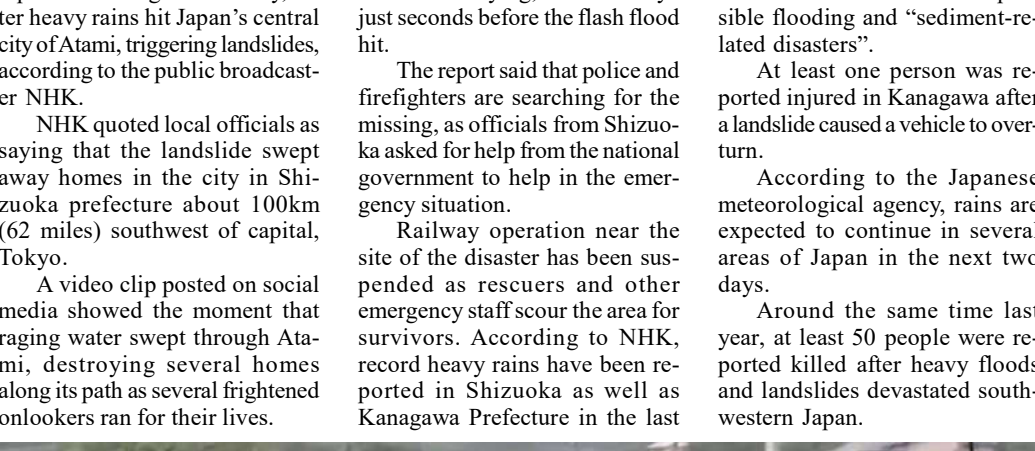
The Ethiopian government declined a unilateral ceasefire on Monday, which the TPLF dismissed as "naïve". The pact also promised electricity and communication blackouts and there are reports of continued child labor in some places, with different forces continuing different work.

UN political and peacebuilding affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo said reports indicate that TPLF leaders are holding former military intervention contractors, have returned to Mekele. "Key institutions have been destroyed, and there are no signs emerging of leaving the area," she said.

Fighting in Tigray, DiCarlo said, Eritrean forces, who have been accused by witnesses of some of the more atrocious acts, were "withdrawing to areas adjacent to the border" with Eritrea.

Amhara forces remain in west Tigray, and DiCarlo said the

20 reported missing after heavy rains trigger landslide in Japan



At least 20 people have been reported missing on Saturday, after heavy rains hit Japan's central area of Kanto, triggering landslides, according to the public broadcaster NHK.

NHK reported local officials in saying that the landslide swept away homes in the city in Shizuoka prefecture, about 100km (62 miles) southwest of capital, Tokyo.

A video clip posted on social media showed the moment that a large wave swept through a village, destroying several houses along a path to a nearby high school. At least 20 people were reported missing in Shizuoka as well as Kanagawa Prefecture in the last 48 hours, prompting local authorities to issue alerts about possible flooding and "volunteer-based disaster".

At least one person was reported missing in Kanagawa after a landslide caused a vehicle to overturn.

According to the Japanese meteorological agency, rains are expected to continue in several areas of Japan in the next few days.

A video clip posted on social media showed the moment that a large wave swept through a village, destroying several houses along a path to a nearby high school. At least 20 people were reported missing in Shizuoka as well as Kanagawa Prefecture in the last 48 hours, prompting local authorities to issue alerts about possible flooding and "volunteer-based disaster".

River bridges, and the reported damage to two other bridges which is a main supply route to bring in food and other life-saving supplies.

Rajalingham called on the Ethiopian government to "immediately repair these bridges and by doing so help prevent the spread of famine."

"We are seeing rising in Tigray is a protection crisis," Rajalingham stressed, citing civilian deaths during the conflict, and more than 1,200 cases of serious acute malnutrition and gender-based violence reported, "with more continuing to emerge."

The Security Council took an historic and unprecedented step in its first open meeting on the conflict, with the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said Ethiopia's government must do more to "it only stands to use the ceasefire to address the humanitarian catastrophe," warning of any delay in the process of a humanitarian ceasefire, but a "war".

Tigray, the Ethiopian ambassador said, represents the people of the conflict "to not to make a mistake, it is to survive."

He also questioned the need for the public Security Council meeting, telling the body the ceasefire was declared to improve aid access and "should have encouraged our friends to give support and do what is possible in full presence." He said the government's ceasefire could also spark dialogue.

While Russia and China did not object to Friday's public meeting, following the public of the Security Council, they made clear that they believed the conflict is an internal affair for Ethiopia. Russia's UN ambassador, Vladimir Lukin, said "We believe that interference by the Security Council is wrong in this situation."

Russia and China are both council veto powers, along with the US, France and Britain.

Miami building collapses: Firefighter's 7-year-old daughter found dead



A firefighter's seven-year-old daughter in one of two more victims pulled from the rubble of a collapsed apartment block near Miami, officials say.

Her father had reportedly kept her in the disaster site for the last nine days and was present when her girl was pulled from the rubble.

It takes the death toll to 22, with 12 people still missing.

Crews are searching the wreckage for survivors, despite the risk of falling debris and an increasing number of fires.

The girl, named by local media as Sofia Carrasco, is the third child to be recovered from the site in Florida.

She was with her mother, grandmother and an aunt visiting the site on Monday, the 12th anniversary of the building's collapse on 25 June, according to local media.

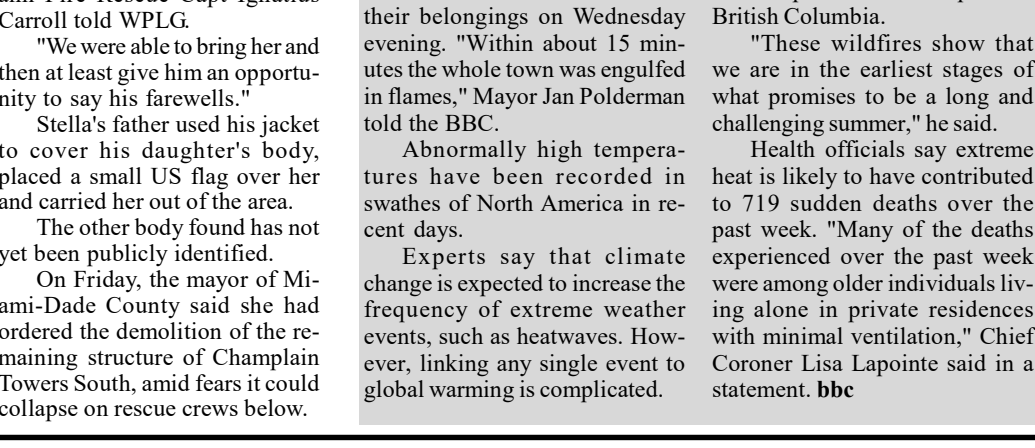
"When he was made aware that we were close to where he lived on may have been, then he stood side by side with some of his other fellow firefighters," Miami Fire Rescue Capt. Ignacia Carrillo said.

She said her father was an opportunity to see his daughter and to cover his daughter's body, pulled a small US flag over her and carried her out of the area.

The other body found has not yet been publicly identified.

On Friday, the mayor of Miami-Dade County said the body was the identification of the remaining structure of Champlain Towers South, and that it could collapse on rescue crews below.

Canada heatwave: Lightning triggers wildfires in British Columbia



More than 150 wildfires - fuelled by lightning strikes - are burning across British Columbia, following a record-breaking heatwave, as Canadian firefighters battle to contain the fires.

Firefighters are working hard to contain the fires in British Columbia.

Canada's Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said the government would provide aid, including military helicopters and personnel, to help tackle the fire and reach people trapped by the flames.

The blaze has forced the closure of a number of major roads.

Public Safety Minister Bill Blaney said the weather and wildfire were having a "devastating" and "unprecedented" impact on British Columbia.

"These wildfires show that we are at the earliest stages of what promises to be a long and challenging summer," he said.

Health officials say extreme heat is likely to have contributed to 719 wildfire deaths over the past week.

Experts say that climate change is expected to increase the frequency of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves. However, linking any single event to a global warming is complicated.

Indonesia expects rise in COVID-19 infections despite stricter curbs

Indonesia expects COVID-19 infections to keep rising for up to two weeks before curbs will slow the spread, with more than 100 million people beginning to return to work.

As of 1 June, one of Asia's worst coronavirus outbreaks, the world's fourth-most populous nation has seen record new infections on eight of the past 12 days, with Friday bringing 25,000 cases and a record 139 deaths.

Monday's deaths on Java and Bali islands, from tighter restrictions to a ban on movement during and outdoor sports and the closure of non-essential workplaces, are on an upward trend, with 10,000.

"In the next 10 days, an optimism maybe two weeks, case are on a downward trend," he added, before the curbs took place any more in the next period, said Lohani. "Indonesia is a severe impact on the COVID-19 response."

This new wave is a critical time for us," he said.

US offers up to \$4 mln reward for arrest of top al-Qaeda leader

The United States said it would offer up to \$4 million for the arrest of a senior al-Qaeda leader who encouraged attacks against the country.

The State Department on Thursday announced it would provide the reward in return for information on the father of the group's leader, al-Qaeda's top commander, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Al-Zawahiri is part of the leadership team that sees the current "emir" of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

"Since 2015, he has appeared in AQAP recruiting materials and encouraged followers with attacks against the United States and its interests. He joined AQAP in 2014, but has been active in al-Qaeda for decades and worked closely for Osama bin Laden in many ways," the State Department said in a statement.

Al-Zawahiri was captured in Pakistan in December 2011 before being transferred to Guantanamo Bay, according to the statement.

He pleaded guilty in 2010 before a military commission to conspiring with al-Qaeda and providing material support to terrorism. However, he was released and returned to Sudan in 2012 pursuant to a presidential agreement.



Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmud Al-Qasbi, the al-Qaeda leader mentioned in the article.