

8 Dead, 4 Missing As Flash Floods Hit China, Rescue Ops Underway

A flash flood in Inner Mongolia killed eight people and left four missing, Chinese state media said Sunday.

A group of 13 people were camping outdoors in Inner Mongolia's Urat Rear Banner when a flash flood occurred around 10 pm (1400 GMT) on Saturday, state news agency Xinhua said.

As of Sunday morning, one person had been rescued and search and rescue operations for the missing are ongoing, Xinhua added.

The Ministry of Emergency Management has ordered full-scale rescue efforts, verification of the status of the missing, and dispatched a working group to the scene, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Natural disasters are common across China, particularly in the summer, when some regions experience heavy rain while others bake in searing heat.

The death count from flash floods and mudslides in northwest China in early August was at least 13, state media said in August.

Heavy rain in Beijing in the north also killed 44 people last month, with the capital's rural suburbs hardest hit and another eight people killed in a landslide in nearby Hebei province.

Scientists have shown that human-driven climate change is causing more intense weather patterns that can make destructive floods more likely.

Indian Man Harassed With Racist Slurs By Irish Teens: 'Didn't Decide To Be Born Brown'

Amid the recent spate of racist attacks against Indian citizens in Ireland, another man has claimed that he was harassed at a bus stop. The 22-year-old man took to Reddit to share his ordeal, stating that a group of teenagers hurled racist slurs at him while others waiting at the bus stop did not intervene.

"I'm an Indian male, 22. After I left work and while waiting for the bus, a group of young teenagers in a car called me over. I naturally thought they were asking for directions or something. I went up to the car, and they called me "hey sweet cheeks." I played along, matched their energy, and said thanks, really appreciated it," the user wrote in the r/IndiansinIreland subreddit.

The OP added that the car pulled up a second time in front of him with the Irish occupants calling him 'handsome' and a bunch of other nonsense.

"Finally, for the third time, they came up from the other side and shouted more racist slurs. They drove off, and when I was boarding the bus, those lads were still there, probably waiting for their next victim who'd give them the reaction they wanted, which I believe I didn't."

The Indian man said he didn't let them get to him, but the entire incident was 'truly disheartening and alienating'.

"I try to be stoic about things and not let them get to me, but I didn't decide to be born brown. There were two Irish people at the stop with me and another brown guy I don't know, and nobody spoke up. We are on our own when push comes to shove. Stay strong, people."

'As an Irish person...'

Reacting to the post, a section of social media users sympathised with the OP, while others apologised for the action of the Irish teens.

"Start videoing these idiots with your smartphones. Including the polite, civilised Irish folks who would never harass Indians, but then do nothing when it's happening in front of them," said one user, while another added: "I'm Irish and am sorry this happened to you. Also, sorry that the Irish people that were there with you chose to do nothing."

A third commented: "As an Irish person I am thoroughly ashamed that this is happening and seems to be getting worse. The majority of normal Irish people wouldn't ever treat anyone this way."

Trump Brings Up India-Pak Again After No Ukraine Deal During Putin Summit



US President Donald Trump has again brought up the recent India-Pakistan conflict, reiterating his claim that the US helped in averting a nuclear escalation between the two Asian neighbours. India maintains that the May conflict ended through a ceasefire sought by Pakistan after suffering heavy damage. Pakistan had credited Trump, echoing him as it has been doing to gain the US attention.

Trump said his main goal is to "save lives", trying to justify his involvement in conflicts worldwide, even if those didn't impact the US on a significant scale, in an interview with Fox News, after his unsuccessful summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

His response came to a question by Fox News's Sean Hannity, who sought to know if he wanted to save the world.

one, to save lives in all cases, because wars are wars. When you see what

would have happened with Cambodia as an example. Now, I'm not involved, but I was involved in negotiating a trade deal. And I said, you guys are going to be fighting Thailand, Cambodia, so many different," the President replied.

Bringing up India-Pakistan tensions, he went on to claim that he averted what could have led to a nuclear escalation.

"Take a look at India and Pakistan. They were shooting down airplanes already. And that would have been maybe nuclear. I would have said it was going to go nuclear. And I was able to get it done," he said.

"Number one is lives. And number two is everything else. Wars are very bad," he added.

India and Pakistan had engaged in a brief four-day conflict following the Pahalgam terror attack in April 22. In the massacre, 26 innocent civilians were shot dead in cold blood by Pakistan-linked terrorists while vacationing in the

scenic Baisaran valley in Pahalgam.

In response, Indian forces had carried out Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terror camps deep within Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In the mega military offensive, over 100 terrorists were eliminated. Pakistan responded to the aerial attacks with drones and missiles that were eventually brought down by India's air defence.

This continued till May 10, when Pakistan approached the Indian side and requested a ceasefire. However, Trump claimed that the hostilities ended due to his involvement that came with a tariff threat - a claim that India has denied multiple times.

Trump has also claimed he helped end conflicts between Thailand and Cambodia, Iran and Israel, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Serbia and Kosovo, and Egypt and Ethiopia, saying this justified a Nobel Peace Prize for the President.

The President has brokered about one peace deal or ceasefire per month, on average, in his first six months in office, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said earlier this month, reiterating Trump's demand for a Nobel.

2 US Carnival Cruise Passengers Drown Hours Apart At Newly Opened Luxury Resort

Two American cruise passengers, a 79-year-old man and a 74-year-old woman, drowned in separate incidents at Carnival Cruise Line's newly opened Celebration Key resort on Grand Bahama Island on August 15. The incidents occurred just hours apart at the \$600 million resort, which opened on July 19. According to the New York Post, the man became unresponsive while snorkelling at the beach around noon. Lifeguards quickly responded and pulled him ashore, where CPR was administered. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, the man was pronounced dead by a medical doctor shortly after. Later that day, around 2:30 PM, a second incident occurred on a separate cruise ship, where a 74-year-old woman was found unresponsive in one of the resort's freshwater lagoons and could not be revived despite CPR efforts.

"The initial report suggests that the female became unresponsive while swimming in a pool," police said in a release shared on Facebook. The two victims were passengers on separate Carnival cruise ships: the Mardi Gras, which departed from Port Canaveral, Florida, and the Carnival Elation, which sailed from Jacksonville, Florida.

"You Can Singlehandedly...": What Melania Trump Said In Letter To Putin

US First Lady Melania Trump wrote a "peace" letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the plight of children in the Ukraine war, urging him to "protect their innocence". US President Donald Trump hand-delivered the letter to his Russian counterpart during their meeting in Alaska on Saturday.

Without naming Ukraine, Ms Trump highlighted the impact of the conflict on children and said that every child "dreams of love, possibility, and safety from danger".

"Every child shares the same quiet dreams in their heart, whether born randomly into a nation's rustic countryside or a magnificent city-center. They dream of love, possibility, and safety from danger. As parents, it is our duty to nurture the next generation's hope.

As leaders, the responsibility to sustain our children extends beyond the comfort of a few. Undeniably, we must strive to paint a dignity-filled world for all - so that every soul may wake to peace, and so that the future itself is perfectly guarded," she wrote.

Ms Trump further said that "each generation's descendants begin their lives with a purity - an innocence which stands above geography, government, and ideology".

"Yet in today's world,



some children are forced to carry a quiet laughter, untouched by the darkness around them a silent defiance against the forces that can potentially claim their future. Mr. Putin, you can singlehandedly restore their melodic laughter," the letter read.

She told Mr Putin that by protecting the innocence of children, he would do "more than serve Russia alone" - serve humanity.

"In protecting the innocence of these children, you will do more than serve Russia alone you serve humanity itself. Such a bold idea transcends all human division, and you, Mr. Putin, are fit to implement this vision with a stroke of the pen today. It is time," she said.

The letter comes a month after Ukraine accused Russia of abducting children during its ongoing invasion, forcing them into military service once they turn 18, and sending them to

fight against their own people. Andriy Yermak, chief of staff to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, said the disturbing practice is part of a "coordinated, state-driven plan" approved by Mr Putin.

The Yale Humanitarian Research Lab, which partnered with Kyiv to trace missing Ukrainian children, documented dozens of Russian-run indoctrination camps, reported The New York Post. According to the report, children are immersed in Russian culture, forbidden from speaking Ukrainian, and shaped into what the Kremlin calls "ideal citizens" in the camps.

In 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) had issued an arrest warrant to Mr Putin, citing child abductions as a central charge. The Kremlin, however, had denied any wrongdoing and called the warrant "outrageous and unacceptable".

US Suspends Visas For Gazans Seeking Medical Aid After Far-Right Campaign



The US government said Saturday it is suspending visitor visas for Gazans after a far-right influencer with the ear of President Donald Trump complained that wounded Palestinians had been allowed to seek medical treatment in the United States. The announcement came one day after a series of furious social media posts by Laura Loomer, who is known for promoting racist conspiracy theories and claiming that the 9/11 terrorist attacks were an inside job.

"All visitor visas for individuals from Gaza are being stopped while we conduct a full and thorough review of the process and procedures used to issue a small number of temporary medical-humanitarian visas in recent days," the State Department, which is led by Marco Rubio, wrote on X. In a series of posts on X Friday, Loomer called on the State Department to stop giving visas to Palestinians from Gaza who she said were "pro-HAMAS... affiliated with

the Muslim Brotherhood and funded by Qatar," without providing evidence. Loomer's target was the US-based charity HEAL Palestine, which said last week it had helped 11 critically wounded Gazan children - as well as their caregivers and siblings -- arrive safely in the US for medical treatment.

It was "the largest single medical evacuation of injured children from Gaza to the US," the charity said on its website.

"Dangerous and inhumane," Loomer wrote in another X post.

"Someone needs to be fired at @StateDept when @marcorubio figures out who approved the visas."

"Qatar transported these GAZANS into the US via @qatarairways," she said. Qatar is "literally flooding our country with jihadis," she added.

Loomer said she had spoken to the staff of Republican Tom Cotton, who chairs the Senate intelligence committee, adding that they were "also looking into how these GAZANS got visas to come into the US."

Republican Congressman Randy Fine explicitly commended

Loomer after the visa change was announced, in a sign of her sway over some US policy.

"Massive credit needs to be given to @LauraLoomer for uncovering this and making me and other officials aware. Well done, Laura," Fine wrote on X.

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a US-based charity, called on the Trump administration to "reverse this dangerous and inhumane decision."

Over the last 30 years the charity has evacuated thousands of Palestinian children to the US for medical care, it said a statement. "Medical evacuations are a lifeline for the children of Gaza who would otherwise face unimaginable suffering or death due to the collapse of medical infrastructure in Gaza." Though Loomer holds no official position, she wields significant power, and is reported to have successfully pushed for the dismissal of several senior US security officials she deemed disloyal to Trump.

Asim Munir Rules Out Replacing Asif Ali Zardari As Next Pakistan President: Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir has ruled out any change in the leadership, describing rumours about the removal of President Asif Ali Zardari as completely false and against both the government and the establishment, a media report said on Saturday.

In July, social media reports began to circulate that President Zardari may be asked to step down and that the army chief would take over the top office.

However, top government officials - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi - rejected such claims.

Suhail Warraich, a columnist for the Jang media group, claimed in an article published Saturday that the army chief had spoken to him in person on the matter during a recent meeting in Brussels.

Munir briefly stayed in Belgium on his return from last week's visit to the United States.

The talk started with politics, especially on rumours that there is some effort to change the president of Pakistan as well as the prime minister. Field Marshal Munir clearly said, during both the Brussels gathering and in his two-hour discussion with me, that the rumours about a change were completely false," Warraich claimed in the column published in the Urdu daily Jang.

"There are elements behind this (rumour) who oppose both the government and the authorities and wish to create political anarchy," the army chief was quoted as saying.



The article claimed that Munir also outlined his ambitions in the Brussels gathering, saying that: "God has made me protector of the country. I do not desire any position other than that." "On a question about politics, he [Munir] said that political reconciliation is possible only if there is a sincere apology," the report read.

Although it was not clear who Munir was referring to, it can be inferred that he may have been referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and its incarcerated leader, Imran Khan.

On foreign relations, Munir was said to have expressed confidence in maintaining equilibrium between the US and China. "We will not sacrifice one friend for the other," Munir was quoted as saying. The army chief also described President Donald Trump's efforts for peace as "genuine", and said Pakistan had taken the lead in nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize, which was then followed by other nations.

Russian Model And Ex-Miss Universe Contestant Kseniya Alexandrova Dies In Freak Car Accident

Kseniya Alexandrova, a 30-year-old Russian model and Miss Universe 2017 contestant, died on August 12, just four months after her wedding. The former Miss Russia 2017 first runner-up suffered severe brain injuries sustained in a car accident in Tver Oblast, Russia, the New York Post reported. The incident happened on July 5 when Alexandrova and her husband were driving home from Rzhev when their car collided with an elk that suddenly darted onto the road. Alexandrova was in the passenger seat at the time, while her husband was driving. The impact left Alexandrova unconscious, with her husband recalling the scene as "covered in blood."

"From the moment it jumped out to the impact, a split second passed. I didn't have time to do anything. The elk flew into the car. The blow hit Ksyusha in the head. She was unconscious, her head was broken, everything was covered in blood," her husband told Russian outlet Rossiyskaya Gazeta in a statement.

The grieving husband described the devastating impact of the collision, recalling how the elk's legs pierced the windshield of their sports car, shattering

the front of his wife's skull. Despite the swift response of other drivers and emergency services, Alexandrova's injuries were too severe. She was rushed to a Moscow hospital, where she later died due to her injuries.

Alexandrova had only married her husband four months earlier, on March 22 and shared a photograph on Instagram from her wedding on August 13.

Notably, she represented Russia in the 2017 Miss Universe pageant and was also the first runner-up in the Miss Russia competition that year. Additionally, Alexandrova was a qualified psychologist, having graduated from Moscow Pedagogical State University. Following her death, her modelling agency, Modus Vivendis, shared a statement confirming her death on Instagram on August 13.

"It is with great sadness that we inform you that our colleague and friend, model Kseniya Alexandrova, passed away yesterday evening. Kseniya was bright and talented. She knew how to inspire, support, and give warmth to everyone around her. For us, she will forever remain a symbol of beauty, kindness and inner strength," the agency wrote.

At Least 320 Killed In Pakistan Due To Monsoon In Last 48 Hours



Rescuers were struggling to retrieve bodies from debris after flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains across northern Pakistan killed at least 321 people in the past 48 hours, authorities said on Saturday.

The majority of deaths, 307, were reported in mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority said.

Most were killed in flash floods and collapsing houses, with the dead including 15 women and 13 children. At least 23 others were injured. One resident told AFP it felt like "the end of the world" was coming, as the ground shook with the force of the water.

The provincial rescue agency told AFP that around 2,000 rescue workers were engaged in recovering bodies from the debris and car-

rying out relief operations in nine affected districts where rain was still hampering efforts. "Heavy rainfall, landslides in several areas, and washed-out roads are causing significant challenges in delivering aid, particularly in transporting heavy machinery and ambulances," said Bilal Ahmed Faizi, spokesman for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's rescue agency.

"Due to road closures in most areas, rescue workers are travelling on foot to conduct operations in remote regions," he told AFP.

"They are trying to evacuate survivors, but very few people are relocating due to the deaths of their relatives or loved ones being trapped in the debris."

The provincial government has declared the severely affected mountainous districts of Buner,

Bajaur, Swat, Shangla, Mansehra and Battagram as disaster-hit areas. The meteorological department has issued a heavy rain alert for Pakistan's northwest for the next few hours, urging people to take "precautionary measures".

Nine more people were killed in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, while five died in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, the national disaster authority said.

Another five people, including two pilots, were killed when a local government helicopter crashed due to bad weather during a relief mission on Friday.

"Reeling From Profound Trauma"

The monsoon season brings South Asia about three-quarters of its annual rainfall, vital for agriculture and food security, but it also brings destruction.

Landslides and flash floods are common during the season, which usually begins in June and eases by the end of September.

Syed Muhammad Tayyab Shah, a representative of the national disaster agency, told AFP that this year's monsoon season began earlier than usual and was expected to end later.

Pakistan Gets 3rd Hangor-Class Submarine From China

China has delivered the third of the eight new "advanced" Hangor-class submarines to Pakistan as part of Beijing's efforts to upgrade Islamabad's naval strength to support its growing presence in the Indian Ocean, India's backyard.

The launching ceremony of the third Hangor-class submarine was held in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province, on Thursday, the state-run Global Times reported on Saturday. The second of the eight submarines China is building for Pakistan was handed over in March this year.

This is in addition to four modern naval frigates that China supplied to Pakistan in the last few years as part of its efforts to boost Pakistan's naval strength amid the Chinese navy's steady expansion in the Arabian Sea, where it is developing the Gwadar port in Balochistan, as well as in the Indian Ocean. Speaking at the launch of the third submarine, Pakistan's Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Project-2 Vice Admiral Abdul Samad said the Hangor-class submarine's cutting-edge weaponry and advanced sensors would be instrumental in

sustaining regional power equilibrium and ensuring maritime stability, the daily quoted a Pakistan defence statement as saying. According to a recent report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China supplied over 81 per cent of Pakistan's military hardware.

Some of Pakistan's key orders in the past five years include the country's first spy ship, the Rizwan; more than 600 VT-4 battle tanks, and 36 J-10CE 4.5-generation fighters, according to the SIPRI database.

China supplied the first delivery of multi-role J-10CE fighter jets to the Pakistan Air Force in 2022, adding to its JF-17 fighters jointly manufactured by both countries. Pakistan used these fighter jets in the recent conflict with India. Zhang Junsheng, a Chinese military affairs expert, told the Global Times that the Hangor-class submarine is characterised by its strong underwater combat capabilities, including comprehensive sensor systems, excellent stealth characteristics, high mobility, long endurance and formidable firepower.