

# Typhoon Gaemi heads for China after leaving 25 dead in Taiwan and Philippines

TAIPEI, July 25 (AP)

A STRONG typhoon was expected to make landfall in China on Thursday after sweeping across Taiwan, where it caused landslides and flooding in low-lying areas and left three dead.

Typhoon Gaemi swept up the western Pacific, intensifying seasonal rains earlier in the week in the Philippines, where the death toll has climbed to 22.

Offices and schools in Taiwan were closed for the second consecutive day on Thursday and people were urged to stay home and away from the coastline. Two people were killed on Wednesday before the storm made landfall around midnight, and a 78-year-old man died after his home was hit by a mudslide on Thursday afternoon, Taiwan's Central News



Agency said.

Another 380 people were reported injured.

A third death on Wednesday — a driver pinned under an overturned excavator — was initially attributed to the typhoon but later was determined not be linked, the news agency said.

The island is regularly hit by typhoons and has boosted its warning systems, but its topography, high population densi-

ty and high-tech economy make it difficult to avoid losses when such storms hit. The capital, Taipei, was unusually quiet, with light rain falling and occasionally gusting winds.

In China's coastal Fujian province, flights, trains and ferry services were canceled, and more than 1,50,000 people evacuated as the typhoon approached, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

After hitting the coast, the

storm is expected to bring heavy rains to inland areas including the capital, Beijing, over the next three days.

In the Philippines, the death toll rose due to drownings and landslides. At least three people are missing, according to police.

The Philippine coast guard reported that an oil tanker, MT Terra Nova, loaded with about 1.4 million liters (370,000 gallons) of industrial fuel oil sank off Limay town in Bataan province early Thursday and rescuers saved 15 of 16 crew members.

It's not immediately clear if the sinking was related to the bad weather and rough seas but Transport Secretary Jaime Bautista said coast guard personnel could not immediately reach the area to contain a possible oil spill because of the rough sea conditions.

# Deceased Navy soldier of INS Brahmaputra gets emotional farewell in Raj

JAIPUR, July 25 (PTI)

INDIAN Navy leading seaman Sitendra Singh, who died in a fire incident on INS Brahmaputra in Mumbai, was given an emotional farewell in his village in Rajasthan on Thursday.

A 'Tiranga yatra' (Tricolour march) was taken out with the last procession of Singh in his village located in Jhunjhunu district.

Singh went missing following a major fire onboard India's frontline ship INS Brahmaputra at the naval dockyard in Mumbai on Sunday evening. His body was found on Wednesday.

The body reached Surajgarh-Chidawa bypass from where

the Tricolour march began to his village, Danger.

Hundreds of local people reached the bypass with their vehicles and escorted the decorated military truck carrying the mortal remains of Singh.

They raised 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' slogans and showered flowers.

"Adm Dinesh K Tripathi #CNS & all personnel of #IndianNavy mourn the loss of life & pay tribute to Sitendra Singh, Ag LS (UW) who lost his life in the unfortunate incident onboard INS Brahmaputra at Mumbai and extend heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family," said the India Navy spokesperson in a post on X.

# Security forces launch anti-tunnelling ops along International Border in Samba

JAMMU, July 25 (PTI)

AMID concerns about infiltration attempts by terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have launched an operation along the International Border (IB) in the Samba sector to detect underground and cross-border tunnels, police said on Thursday.

Scores of police and securi-

ty personnel equipped with specialised gear are meticulously scanning border areas, focusing on dense bushes and forested regions as part of this operation, the police said.

"A comprehensive anti-tunnel exercise has commenced to ascertain the presence of any cross-border tunnels," said a police officer involved in the

operation.

The search operations also involve deployment of drones and is being conducted daily in response to the ongoing security threats posed by potential terrorist infiltrations, he said. "Security forces are clearing dense bushy areas to eliminate the possibility of existence of tunnels," the officer added.

# In speech to US Cong, Netanyahu seeks support for Gaza war

WASHINGTON, July 25 (AP)

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended Israel's ongoing war in Gaza and condemned American protesters in a scathing speech to Congress on Wednesday that triggered boycotts by many top Democratic lawmakers and drew thousands of protesters to the Capitol to condemn the war in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis it has created.

Nine months into the war in Gaza, Netanyahu vowed to press on with the war until "total victory." He also sought bolster US support for his country's fight against Hamas and other Iran-backed armed groups, and bitterly con-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to a joint meeting of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, on Wednesday as House Speaker Mike Johnson of La., and Senate Foreign Relations Chair Ben Cardin, D-Md, listen. (AP/PTI)

demned widespread opposition in the United States to the war. "America and Israel must stand together. When we stand together, something really simple happens: We win, they lose," said Netanyahu, who wore a yellow pin expressing solidarity with the Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Netanyahu's speech quickly took on a darker tone as he defended his country but also derided those protesting the war, gesturing to demonstrations happening as he spoke on the streets outside the US Capitol, as "useful idiots" for Israel's adversaries.

He drew shouts of applause from many in Congress, but also silence from leading

Democrats. Freed former hostages of Hamas and families of hostages listened in the House chamber as Netanyahu spoke. Lawmakers of both parties rose repeatedly to applaud the Israeli leader, while security escorted out protesters in the gallery who rose to display T-shirts with slogans demanding that leaders close a deal for a cease-fire and the release of all hostages.

A weeping Rep. Rashida Tlaib, a Michigan Democrat, held a sign in the House chamber that says "war criminal."

Netanyahu accused the numerous protesters of the war in the US of standing with the militants who he said killed babies in Hamas' attack.



# Paris Olympics set for a grand start

## India eyes double-digit medal haul

■ By Amanpreet Singh  
PARIS, July 25 (PTI)

SOME would be carrying a huge burden of expectations, some others would look to spring a surprise and a few more would be eyeing the perfect closure to their glittering careers as the 117-strong Indian contingent aims for a better-than-before performance in the Olympic Games, starting here on Friday.

India returned from Tokyo with seven medals, and it is only natural that a double-digit performance is now desired in Paris.

Except for wrestlers, who have waded through a

highly controversial build-up, athletes in all disciplines have had no complaints about their preparations.

Whether it was training abroad or getting the best of facilities to sharpen their skills, there was planning in place.

But will the hard work, the strategies and the unbridled support translate into medals?

THE BIG PICTURE: It will be a Herculean task to match the Tokyo figures of seven medals, given that except for reigning Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, not many are top contenders

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117-strong Indian contingent aims for a better-than-before performance in the Olympic Games

### Achanta Sharath Kamal, Sindhu to be India's flagbearers

PARIS, July 25 (IANS)

INDIAN table tennis veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal and ace shuttler and two-time medallist PV Sindhu share excitement for the 'one-time opportunity' of being flagbearers for the Paris Olympics opening ceremony, scheduled on Friday.

Sharath Kamal, who will feature in his record fifth Olympics, was selected as India's flagbearer in March this year but Sindhu was named as the female flagbearer earlier this month.

Notably, in 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) updated its protocol, permitting one female and one male athlete from each NOC to bear the flag jointly during the opening ceremony of the Summer Games. Sindhu is India's only female athlete who has won multiple medals.



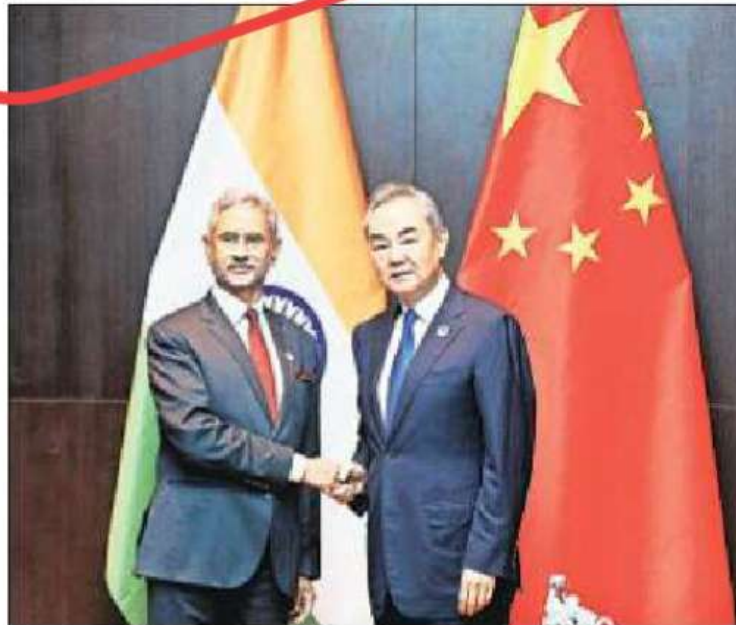
# Need to ensure 'full respect' for LAC, past agreements: Jaishankar to Wang at Laos

VIENTIANE, July 25 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday emphasised the need to ensure 'full respect' for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and past agreements to 'stabilise' and 'rebuild' bilateral ties with Beijing as he met Chinese counterpart Wang Yi for the second time within a month.

The two leaders, who are in the Laotian capital to participate in the meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), also agreed on the need to give strong guidance to complete the disengagement process following the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020.

"Met with CPC Politburo member and FM Wang Yi in Vientiane today. Continued our ongoing discussions about our bilateral relationship. The state



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in Vientiane on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

of the border will necessarily be reflected on the state of our

ties," Jaishankar said in a post on X after meeting with Wang

on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings here.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

The Jaishankar-Wang talks came amid the dragging border row in eastern Ladakh that entered its fifth year in May.

"Agreed on the need to give strong guidance to complete the disengagement process. Must ensure full respect for the LAC and past agreements. It is in our mutual interest to stabilise our ties. We should approach the immediate issues with a sense of purpose and urgency," Jaishankar added.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the meeting gave the two ministers an opportunity to review the situation since their last meeting at Astana on July 4.