

Death toll in SLeone disaster reaches 441

Freetown

The death toll from a mudslide and flooding that struck Sierra Leone's capital Freetown has reached 441, the government said yesterday.

"Four hundred and forty-one corpses (were) buried as at yesterday," the deputy minister of information and communication, Cornelius Deveaux, said, adding that the number of missing was "still being calculated."

A tally of deaths, issued on Friday by the Red Cross, stood at more than 400, with around 600 others listed as missing.

At Connaught Hospital, morgue worker Mohamed Sinneh Kamara gave a slightly higher toll than the minister's.

"We buried 50 more bodies on Friday. We have so far buried 450 corpses," he



A child receives a bag of supplies from disaster relief volunteers

said. "Most of the bodies were found decomposed and families were not allowed to identify (them)."

He added: "We're receiving calls from disaster-hit communities every three to four hours about a corpse found in a drainage or under a collapsed building."

Three more bodies were found in a search for survivors in the Regent district, the emergency services said.

Lebanon begins offensive against IS

Beirut

Lebanese troops yesterday launched an offensive against the Islamic State group on the country's eastern border with Syria, seeking to drive the jihadists from a long-time stronghold.

The operation came as IS faces multiple military attacks on territory it controls

in both Syria and neighbouring Iraq, where it lost the city of Mosul in July.

Militants have long been active in mountainous eastern Lebanon near the border with Syria, where a bloody civil war has raged since 2011.

In 2014, jihadists invaded the border town of Arsal, capturing 30 Lebanese soldiers and police. Security forces in the region have since come under regular attack.

"In the name of Lebanon, in the name of kidnapped Lebanese soldiers,



Lebanese army spokesman Ali Kanso (L) gestures during a news conference at the Ministry of Defense in Yarze east of Beirut

in the name of martyrs of the army, I announce that operation 'Dawn of Jurud' has started," army chief General Joseph Aoun said Saturday.

He was referring to two mountainous border areas -- Jurud Ras Baalbek and Jurud al-Qaa -- where IS has been active.

"The army is confronting the Daesh terrorists to chase them out and recover territory," army spokesman General Ali Qanso said, using an Arabic acronym for IS.

'Know your limits'

Erdogan warns German foreign minister

Istanbul

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday told German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel to "know your limits" after he vehemently criticised the Turkish leader for interfering in Germany's upcoming elections.

"He knows no limits! Who are you to talk to the president of Turkey? Know your limits. He is trying to teach us a lesson... How long have you been in politics? How old are you?" Erdogan said in a bitter personal attack on Gabriel.

Erdogan had a day earlier caused consternation in Berlin by urging ethnic Turks in Germany to vote against both parties in Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling coalition in the September 24 legislative elections.

Gabriel condemned Erdogan's comments as an "unprecedented act of interference" in Germany's sovereignty.

"Of course they got uncomfortable. They all started jumping up and down," remarked Erdogan in a speech to supporters in the southwestern province of Denizli.

Erdogan repeated his

controversial call to ethnic Turks eligible to vote in the German elections not to cast their ballots for Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), their coalition partner the Social Democratic Party (SPD) or the Greens.

"Teach them (the three parties) a lesson in the German elections. They are waging a campaign against Turkey. Vote for those who don't have enmity towards Turkey."

He added: "It's not important for us whether Germany opens its doors to us or not. We have enough doors."

"We will go to countries that have opened their doors and we will open our doors to them," said Erdogan.

Analysts estimate that some 1.2 million people of Turkish origin will have the right to vote in the September polls as German citizens. (AFP)



President of Turkey and Chairman of the Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party), Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Turkey kills IS suspect, detains 4 'planning attack'

Istanbul

Turkish security forces yesterday killed one suspected member of the Islamic State (IS) extremist group and detained four more said to have been planning a bomb attack in the country, local authorities said.

Turkish forces in the southern Hatay region bordering Syria stopped a vehicle carrying five suspected IS members after receiving intelligence "they had come to our country to carry out a bomb attack", the regional governor's office said.

It said that four of the suspects gave themselves up but security forces opened fire on the fifth individual after he failed to heed warnings to surrender and attempted to attack them.

Identified as a Syrian national,



Representative picture

he later died in hospital despite efforts to save his life, the statement said.

The nationalities of the four detained suspects were not made clear.

The statement said intense investigations were continuing into the incident but did not say

if any explosives were found in the vehicle.

Turkey was hit by a succession of attacks in 2016 that left hundreds dead in the bloodiest year of terror strikes in its history.

The attacks were attributed to IS jihadists as well as the outlawed

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) who have battled the Turkish state in an insurgency lasting more than three decades.

In one of the bloodiest strikes, a jihadist gunman opened fire on an elite nightclub in Istanbul just 75 minutes into New Year's Day in 2017, killing 39 people, mainly foreigners.

There has since been a lull in similar attacks, but tensions remain high and Turkish police launch raids almost daily against suspected IS cells across the country.

A 24-year-old Turkish police officer was stabbed to death in Istanbul last weekend by a suspected IS member who had been arrested on suspicions he was planning a suicide attack.

HR Administration Officer

An American school in Kuwait is seeking a HR Administration Officer, the applicant is to be a native English speaker of either American or British nationality. Along with a minimum of 3 years HR management experience they must hold either an MBA or BA. Excellent written and oral communication skills are a must along with excellent computer skills. The successful applicant will have the ability to work at a fast pace, meeting set deadlines, unsupervised. Experience working in a school environment would be of an advantage but not essential.

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