

# Fire at Pakistan mall kills at least 21

The three-storey shopping mall housed at least 1,200 shops

- Shopkeepers and families criticised authorities for slow rescue efforts
- The dead include a 25-year-old rescuer
- A government committee has launched an investigation, but it was not immediately clear what had caused the fire.

AFP | Karachi, Pakistan

A fire that ripped through a shopping mall in Pakistan's biggest city has killed at least 21 people, rescuers in Karachi said Monday. Families rushed to the Gul Plaza building after the blaze erupted on Saturday night at one of the coastal city's busiest malls, where dozens of people were still missing. "In total 21 bodies have been recovered," Hassan Khan, spokesman for the Rescue 1122 Sindh emergency service, told AFP. "The search operation will



Rescue workers search amid the debris using excavators after a massive fire at a shopping mall in Karachi

continue," he said. The dead include a 25-year-old rescuer, Khan said, while at least 30 injured people were hospitalised. Standing outside the burnt mall, Shehbaz Ghulam said his nephew's whereabouts were unknown. "We have made requests to the authorities. We also request the media to help us in any way

possible," the 45-year-old said. "No matter what condition he is in, if he is found and returned to us, we will find some peace," he told AFP. The top police officer in Karachi's southern district, Syed Asad Raza, told AFP the force has "a list of 60 missing persons". Rescue workers said that the blaze had been brought under control. A government committee has launched an investigation, but it was not immediately clear what had caused the fire. Among those waiting outside the mall was Muhammad Qaisar, who last heard from his wife, sister and daughter-in-law at 8:00 pm on Saturday. "The phone kept ringing until 10:00 pm, but no one answered. It continued to ring until midnight, but no one picked up," Qaisar, 55, told AFP. The three-storey shopping mall housed at least 1,200 shops, offering a wide range of goods and was famous for wedding shopping and home decoration items. Shopkeepers and families criticised authorities for slow rescue efforts. Fires are common in Karachi's markets and factories, which are known for their poor infrastructure.

# Trump says world 'not secure' until US has Greenland

AFP | Nuuk, Denmark

Donald Trump no longer needs to think "purely of peace" after being snubbed for a Nobel, the US president said in comments published Monday, adding the world will not be safe until Washington controls Greenland. Trump has put the transatlantic alliance to the test with threats to take over Greenland "one way or the other", with European countries closing ranks against Washington's designs on the vast Danish territory. German and French leaders denounced as "blackmail" weekend threats by Trump to wield new tariffs against countries which oppose his plans for the Arctic island, and said Monday that Europe was preparing trade countermeasures. The European Union said it was holding an emergency summit on Thursday to weigh its response, and that while its priority is to "engage not escalate" it is ready to act if needed.



## Greenland: critical minerals

Main deposits\* of selected critical minerals

- Feldspar
- Graphite
- Molybdenum
- Platinum group metals
- Rare earth minerals
- Titanium
- Vanadium

\*only those assessed compliant with international resource reporting standards  
Map data: QGreenland, US National Snow and Ice Data Center (ice extent Aug 2024)  
Source: Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Review of Critical Raw Material Resource Potential in Greenland

AFP

Nobel Committee," he said in a written statement. **Russia, China threat?** Trump has repeatedly said his country needs vast, mineral-rich Greenland for "national security", despite the United States already having a base on the island and security agreements with fellow NATO ally Denmark. "Denmark cannot protect that land from Russia or China," Trump said in his message to the Norwegian premier, doubling down on that sentiment in a post to Truth Social on Monday. Denmark's defence minister Troels Lund Poulsen said Monday steps had already been taken along with NATO allies to "increase military presence and training activity in the Arctic and the North Atlantic". Lund Poulsen added that he and Greenlandic foreign minister Vivian Motzfeldt would be meeting with NATO chief Mark Rutte later on Monday. **'Blackmail'** This weekend, Trump said that from February 1, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Finland would be subject to a 10-percent tariff on all goods sent to the United States -- a duty which could go higher. Ger-

many's vice chancellor Lars Klingbeil slammed the move as blackmail, and said Monday that Europe was preparing countermeasures. French finance minister Roland Lescure, speaking at a press conference alongside Kingbeil, agreed. "Blackmail between allies of 250 years, blackmail between friends, is obviously unacceptable," Lescure said. Klingbeil said Europe's response could have three main strands. First, the current tariff deal with the United States would be put on hold, he said. Second, European tariffs on imports from the United States, currently suspended until early February, could come into force. And thirdly the EU should consider using its toolbox of instruments against "economic blackmail", he added. Greenland -- whose tiny population of 57,000 has voiced disquiet at Trump's threats -- continued to make its preferences clear Monday. Greenland's dogsled federation said that the new US special envoy to the Arctic island had been disinclined to its annual race. Jeff Landry had been invited to attend the race by a private Greenlandic tour operator, an invite the KNQK federation has previously called "totally inappropriate".



BETTER YOU KNOW

Greenland is the world's largest island and about 80 per cent of its surface is covered by an ice sheet, making it a critical region for climate research and global sea-level studies.