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Protesters occupy US university building

PRO-GAZA STUDENTS SUSPENDED FOR DEFYING ORDERS



Reuters

■ Pro-Palestinian protesters link arms outside Hamilton Hall barricading students inside the building at Columbia University, in New York City, yesterday.

NEW YORK

Demonstrators at Columbia University barricaded themselves inside a campus building yesterday, escalating a standoff with school officials as pro-Palestinian protests upend campuses across the United States. The occupation of Hamilton Hall at the prestigious university in New York came hours after administrators said they had begun suspending students for failing to comply with an order to disperse. Masked individuals smashed windows and moved metal tables to block the building's entrances, images shared overnight on social media showed. "After 206 days of genocide and over 34,000 Palestinian martyrs, Columbia community members took back Hamilton Hall just after midnight," the group said in a statement citing Israel's war in Gaza.

In memory of Gazan girl
It said the group had renamed the building "Hind's Hall" in honour of a six-year-old Gazan girl killed by Israel during its ongoing offensive against Hamas. The demonstrators vowed to remain at the hall until their demands are met, including that Columbia divest all financial holdings linked to Israel. The school has rejected the demand, with a statement Monday by university president Minouche Shafik saying talks with students "were not able to come to an agreement."

Protests against the Gaza war, with its high Palestinian civilian death toll, have posed a challenge to university administrators trying to balance free speech rights with complaints that the rallies have veered into anti-Semitism and hate.

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Protests have swept through higher education institutions from coast to coast, with many erecting tent encampments on campus grounds, after around 100 protesters were first arrested at Columbia on April 18.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, police moved yesterday morning to clear one encampment, and could be seen in social media images detaining a few protesters.

Teargas and pepper spray

TV footage showed police at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond yesterday evening pushing and shoving away protesters, with students saying teargas and pepper spray was deployed.

At the University of Texas at Austin, police clashed with protesters Monday, including using pepper spray, and made arrests while dismantling an encampment, adding to the more than 350 people detained nationwide over the weekend. —AFP

SEE ALSO P9

Rahul, Gill dropped from Indian cricket squad

Samson, Chahal included in team for T20 World Cup

DUBAI

BY A.K.S. SATISH
Sports Editor

The omission of KL Rahul is the biggest surprise as the Indian cricket board announced the 15-man squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup starting on June 1 in the US and the West Indies. Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson and Yuzvendra Cha-

hal are the notable selections to the squad, announced in New Delhi yesterday.

Team India will be led by Rohit Sharma, and Hardik Pandya will be his deputy. Rohit's opening partner is Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has been in superb touch against England in the recent Test series; he's also run into form in the Indian Premier League matches.

Top-order batter Shubman Gill was named a reserve player along with late middle-order batter Rinku Singh. Fast bowlers Khaleel Ahmed and

Avesh Khan are also among the standbys.

Yuzvendra Chahal, who last played in a World Cup for India in England in 2019, was chosen on the strength of his IPL form. The leg-spinner is one of the four spin options, along with left-arm spinners and all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel and chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav. Jasprit Bumrah heads the pace attack, which includes Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh. Hardik and Dube will provide seam-bowling support.

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Unstable weather: UAE to receive more rains

Expect wet weather starting this evening until tomorrow afternoon

DUBAI

BY EVANGELINE ELSA
Social Media Editor

Be prepared for wet weather — there's a rain alert out from this evening till tomorrow afternoon across the UAE. The National Centre of Meteorology has issued a weather forecast for unstable weather, which will cause moderate to heavy rains, accompanied by hail and thunder in some parts of the country, especially tomorrow morning.

However, "the weather situation is weaker than the one seen on April 16," Isra Alnaqbi, an NCM meteorologist told *Gulf News* yesterday. UAE authorities have asked residents to take precautions, especially in areas which are prone to rain water accumulation.

Motorists should watch out for sudden drop in visibility due to rain and dust storms. The Ministry of Interior also re-

REMOTE LEARNING

Dubai Government yesterday night announced remote learning for all private schools in the emirate on **May 2 and 3** due to the unstable weather conditions forecasted. Nurseries and universities must also offer distance learning on the two days, Dubai's private education regulator, the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), said.

minded motorists of the fines related to driving during extreme weather conditions. The three fines that were introduced last year, deter motorists from gathering near or entering flooded valleys and dams, during rainy weather, or obstructing authorities from regulating traffic or responding to emergencies. The fines are as high as Dh2,000. There are also traffic violations that motorists may make unknowingly, including taking pictures while driving or incorrectly using their vehicle's hazard lights.

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