

Israeli strikes on Lebanon kill 4 civilians

AFP, Beirut

Israeli strikes in south Lebanon yesterday killed four civilians including two children and wounded nine other people, a Lebanese security source said, after Israel said it "began a series of strikes in Lebanon".

"A woman was killed along with her child and her stepchild in a strike that targeted Sawwaneh," while a fourth civilian was killed in a strike on a building in Adshit, the security source told AFP, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Nine other people were injured in strikes on south Lebanon, the source added.



People ride in a cart pulled by a tractor past the rubble of a destroyed building and a mosque minaret in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday as Israel begins air strikes in the southern enclave. PHOTO: AFP

The strikes came hours after fire from Lebanon wounded multiple people in northern Israel

The Israeli raids targeted several different locations in south Lebanon, around 10 to 25 kilometres from the Israeli border.

The strikes came hours after unclaimed rocket fire from Lebanon wounded seven people in northern Israel, five of them in the town of Safed, medics said.

Images purportedly of the Israeli raids circulating on social media showed wide destruction. The military said its fighter jets "began a series of strikes in Lebanon", raising fears of a war between the two countries.

Rafah invasion could 'lead to slaughter': UN

REUTERS, United Nations

The United Nations on Tuesday warned against an Israeli ground invasion of Rafah in the Gaza Strip, saying an offensive could "lead to a slaughter" in the southern region of the Palestinian enclave where more than one million people are sheltering.

Israel says it wants to flush out Hamas from hideouts in Rafah and free Israeli hostages being held there, and is making plans to evacuate trapped Palestinian civilians.

"Military operations in Rafah could lead to a slaughter in Gaza. They could also leave an already fragile humanitarian operation

at death's door," said UN aid chief Martin Griffiths. "We lack the safety guarantees, the aid supplies and the staff capacity to keep this operation afloat."

"The international community has been warning against the dangerous consequences of any ground invasion in Rafah. The Government of Israel cannot continue to ignore these calls," he said in a statement.

Talks involving US, Egypt, Israel and Qatar on a Gaza truce ended without a breakthrough on Tuesday as calls grew for Israel to hold back on its planned assault.

"My sincere hope is that negotiations for the release of hostages and some form

of cessation of hostilities to be successful to avoid an all-out offensive over Rafah," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization yesterday warned that an Israeli military offensive against Rafah in southern Gaza would cause an "unfathomable catastrophe" and push the enclave's health system closer to the brink of collapse.

"Military activities in this area, this densely populated area, would be, of course, an unfathomable catastrophe... and would even further expand the humanitarian disaster beyond imagination," said WHO's Richard Peepkorn.

EAST AUSTRALIA Storms knock out power to 174,000 homes

AFP, Melbourne

Storms packing powerful winds toppled trees, killed one person and knocked out power to 174,000 homes and businesses in eastern Australia, officials said yesterday.

The wild weather hit large swathes of Victoria on Tuesday, dumping torrents of rain and unleashing gusts of over 150 kms per hour. A 50-year-old man was killed in the storm, dying on the scene after being struck by debris while working on his property in Darlimurla.

Trump's gripes with Nato 'nothing new'

AFP, Moscow

Former US president Donald Trump's complaints about some Nato allies not spending two percent of their GDP on defence are "nothing new", the Kremlin said yesterday. The 2024 presidential candidate drew fierce criticism from US President Joe Biden after he suggested he would encourage Russia to attack allies who failed to meet the spending target.

"This was one of Trump's main messages that he used in his relations with members of the alliance," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"In fact, he constantly repeated this 'two percent' on various occasions. So there is nothing new in his approach to this problem," Peskov added. At a campaign rally on Saturday, Trump described what he said was a conversation with a fellow head of state at a Nato meeting. "One of the presidents of a big country stood up and said, 'Well, sir, if we don't pay... 'You didn't pay, you're delinquent? No, I would not protect you,'" Trump told his supporters.



Iran's main gas pipeline hit by sabotage: minister

REUTERS, Dubai

Two explosions along Iran's main south-north gas pipeline network yesterday were caused by sabotage, the Iranian oil minister told state TV, without naming any suspects. Authorities also denied reports that the incident caused gas cuts to industries and offices in some provinces, state media reported. "This terrorist act of sabotage occurred at 1:00 am yesterday morning in the network of national gas transmission pipelines in two regions of the country," Minister Javad Owji said. Only villages near the damaged pipeline were experiencing gas outages, which will be fixed later today, Owji said. Temporary restrictions had been planned ahead for maintenance, state media reported. Owji pointed to a similar incident which took place in 2011, which he said was an act of sabotage that caused temporary gas outages in four different regions in the country.

চপস্টিক
ইনস্ট্যান্ট নুডলস

টেস্টিং সল্ট নেই, স্বাদেও দারুণ।
তাই তো চপস্টিক পরিবারের সবার জন্যই ভালো।