

600,000 children face 'catastrophe' in Rafah: Unicef

AFP, United Nations

Some 600,000 children packed into Gaza's Rafah city face "further catastrophe," Unicef warned yesterday, urging against their forced relocation after Israel ordered an evacuation ahead of its long-threatened ground invasion.

It said Gaza's youth were already "on the edge of survival," with many in Rafah - where the agency said the population has soared to 1.2 million people, half of them children - already displaced multiple times and with nowhere else to go.

"More than 200 days of war have taken an unimaginable toll on the lives of children," said Unicef executive director Catherine Russell.

"Rafah is now a city of children, who have nowhere safe to go in Gaza," she said, warning that a large-scale military operation would bring "chaos and panic".



Palestinians mourn next to the bodies of their relatives killed in Israeli strikes, during their funeral at Abu Yousef al-Najjar hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Hezbollah fires rockets at Israeli base

AFP, Beirut

Lebanese official media said an Israeli strike yesterday wounded three people in the country's east, with Hezbollah saying it launched "dozens of Katyusha rockets" at an Israeli base in retaliation.

"Enemy warplanes launched a strike at around 1:30 am this morning on a factory in Sifri, wounding three civilians and destroying the building," Lebanon's official National News Agency said.

Sifri is in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley in the Baalbek area, a Hezbollah stronghold that Israel has repeatedly struck in recent weeks, located around 80 kilometres from the Israel-Lebanon frontier. The Israeli army said its warplanes "struck a Hezbollah military structure... deep inside Lebanon," referring to the location as "Safri".

'Where can we go?'

Rafah residents ask as Israel demands evacuation

AFP, Rafah

Palestinian civilians in the southern Gaza city of Rafah voiced despair yesterday as Israel dropped fliers urging them to evacuate for their own "safety" ahead of a "limited" military operation.

Israel's army said it was instructing Palestinian families in eastern Rafah to flee in preparation for an expected ground assault on the city which abuts Gaza's border with Egypt.

Residents of Rafah described emerging outside after a terrifying

night in which around a dozen air strikes were carried out on Rafah, to find fliers falling from the sky telling them to "evacuate immediately".

"The army is working with intensive power against the terrorist forces near you," read a flier circulated in eastern Rafah.

"For your safety, the IDF (Israeli military) tells you to evacuate immediately towards the expanded humanitarian zone of al-Mawasi," it said, with a map indicating the location to the north of Rafah.

Osama Al-Kahlout, of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society

in Gaza, told AFP that the areas designated for evacuation currently shelter some 250,000 people, many of whom have already been displaced from other areas in the Gaza Strip.

"The evacuation process has begun on the ground, but in a limited manner," he said. An Israeli military spokesman, when asked how many people should move, said: "The estimate is around 100,000 people."

About 1.2 million people are currently sheltering in Rafah, according to the World Health Organisation.

Delhi Lt Governor recommends NIA probe against Arvind Kejriwal

NDTV ONLINE

In an explosive turn of events yesterday, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has called for an anti-terror probe into allegations Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal received political funding from the banned Sikhs For Justice group founded by wanted terrorist Gurpatwant Pannun.

INDIA POLLS CAMPAIGN EC warns political parties against misuse of AI tools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's Election Commission (EC) yesterday warned political parties against misuse of AI-based tools to create deep fakes that distort information or propagate misinformation in the backdrop of manipulated videos targeting top Home Minister Amit Shah and arrest of some workers of opposition party Congress.

Regional Public Administration Training Center Office of the Deputy Director Boyra, Khulna. e-Tender Notice. e-Tender will be available on 08 May, 2024 in the National e-GP System Portal.



Macron presses China's Xi to halt Ukraine war

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron and EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen pressed Xi Jinping at a summit in Paris yesterday to use Beijing's influence to halt the Russian war against Ukraine, also telling the Chinese leader to accept fair global trade rules.

Xi's two-day state visit to France is his first visit to Europe since 2019 on a trip that will also see him hold talks in Serbia and Hungary. He has said he wants to find peace in Ukraine.

Opening an initial trilateral meeting attended by von der Leyen, Macron said coordination with Beijing on "major crises" including Ukraine was "absolutely decisive" and urged "fair rules for all" in Europe-China trade.

POST-COUP MYANMAR Armed group captures hundreds of junta personnel

AFP, Bangkok

A Myanmar ethnic armed group said yesterday it had captured a military command and taken hundreds of junta personnel prisoner in western Rakhine state, the latest blow to the military.

Clashes have rocked Rakhine since the Arakan Army (AA) attacked security forces in November, ending a ceasefire that had largely held since the junta's 2021 coup.

The military still holds the state capital Sittwe but AA fighters have seized territory in surrounding districts, including bases on the border with India and Bangladesh.

A video released by the AA's media channel said the group had captured "Military Operations Command 15" near the town of Buthidaung, around 90 kilometres (55 miles) north of Sittwe.

The video did not say when its fighters had captured the site but local media have reported regular clashes around Buthidaung in recent days. "The video record of the deputy commander of MOC 15 after a certain period of siege," read a message published in Burmese, Chinese and English.

Dhaka South City Corporation Urban Planning Department. Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Consultancy to Provide Transport-related Services on DSCC Issues (Individual Consultant National). Memo: 46-207.000.14.00.624.2024-619. Date: 05/05/2024.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বিজ্ঞাপন বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়. বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি: ২০২৩-২০২৪.