



A person holds a placard that reads “The Nakba never ended” in London during the “National March for Gaza”, calling to “end the genocide”, “stop arming Israel” and “no Middle East war” yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ukrainian drones hit Russian airfield, oil depot: Kyiv source

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian drones targeted a military airfield and an oil depot in Russia, a defence source in Kyiv said on Saturday, after Moscow reported repelling the latest aerial barrage.

Kyiv has stepped up aerial attacks on Russian territory, saying it carries out the strikes in retaliation for the bombardments Ukraine has faced since Russia invaded more than two years ago.

“Last night, drones from Ukraine’s Security Service visited the Morozovsk airfield in the Rostov region” that stored aircraft and guided aerial bombs, the source said.

“Ukrainian drones did a great job, hitting the aviation ammunition depot,” the source added.

Russia has launched more than 600 guided air bombs on Ukraine in one week alone, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

“Russian combat aircraft must be destroyed where they are, by all means that are effective. Striking at Russian airfields is also quite fair,” he said on social media.

Russian officials did not address claims regarding the destroyed airfield, but local governor Vasily Golubev said on Telegram that authorities introduced a state of emergency in the district of Morozovsk.

9 killed in 2 Israeli air strikes in West Bank

AFP, Tulkarem

Israeli forces killed nine Palestinians in separate air strikes in the occupied West Bank yesterday, the Palestinian press agency Wafa reported, while the Israeli military said it had “eliminated terrorist cells”.

Five people were killed in an Israeli drone strike in the Tulkarem area, Wafa reported, while the Israeli military said it struck “five terrorists” on their way to carry out an attack.

According to Wafa, the drone fired two missiles at a vehicle which caught fire, killing five men.

The director of the Thabet Thabet Hospital in Tulkarem said in a statement that “five martyrs” had arrived at the facility after “an Israeli drone strike on a Palestinian vehicle close to the village of Zeita”.

“The Israeli police are currently conducting a counterterrorism activity in the area of Tulkarem,” the military said in a statement.

A witness at the scene of the strike told AFP: “I live less than 50 metres (yards) from here. We came (after) the sound of an explosion and saw a vehicle on fire” on the road towards Zeita, to the north of Tulkarem.

“Next to it, we saw a body lying on the road. Inside the vehicle, there were three charred bodies, from what we were able to see, completely burnt,” said the witness named Nasser, who declined to have his last name published.

The Israeli military quickly sealed off the area, Wafa reported.

In a second air strike, hours later in the Tulkarem area, Wafa

reported that four Palestinians were killed.

The military confirmed the aerial strike, saying “an additional terrorist cell was eliminated” as part of the ongoing counterterrorism activity there.

During the operation there was an encounter between troops and militants, after which Israeli soldiers called in an air strike, killing the four, the military said.

Alongside the Israel-Hamas

Bank over the same period, according to official Israeli figures.

Excluding east Jerusalem, some 490,000 Israeli settlers now live in the West Bank alongside some three million Palestinians.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinians marched to protest the treatment of prisoners held in Israeli jails on Saturday, following reports of abuse and even torture.

Relatives held up pictures of prisoners and waved



war that began last October in the Gaza Strip, violence has intensified in the West Bank, occupied by Israel since 1967.

At least 603 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops and settlers in the West Bank since October 7, according to an AFP tally based on Palestinian health ministry figures.

At least 17 Israelis, including soldiers, have been killed by Palestinian attacks in the West

Palestinian flags during separate demonstrations in Ramallah and Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

“Even if the whole world submits, we will not recognise Israel,” chanted the protesters in Ramallah.

Thousands of Palestinians have been detained in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel since the start of the Israel-Hamas war in October, the United Nations human rights office said this week.

Surging Harris, Trump spar over debate dates

AFP, Washington

Kamala Harris’s campaign branded Donald Trump “scared” Saturday after he proposed to change the presidential debate schedule ahead of a rally in Georgia where he will try to halt the vice president’s surging momentum in her bid to become America’s first woman president.

In an overnight post on his Truth Social app, Trump said he was willing to debate Harris on the conservative Fox News network on September 4, while declining to participate in a previously scheduled debate on ABC.

Trump pitched the idea before going to a rally in Atlanta, where he will gather supporters in the same arena where Harris addressed an excited crowd of some 10,000 just this Tuesday.

Trump said he had “agreed” to the debate plan with Fox. And he said it would take place in Pennsylvania – a crucial swing state in the US presidential electoral system – in front of a live audience.

The Harris campaign dismissed this as “games.”

“Donald Trump is running scared and trying to back out of the debate he already agreed to and running straight to Fox News to bail him out,” Harris’s campaign communications director Michael Tyler said in a statement. “He needs to... show up to the debate he already committed to on Sept 10.”

The proposal to confront Harris on a network that has long supported him was the latest Trump effort to recapture the initiative in a campaign that had been entirely focused on a rematch against 81-year-old Joe Biden, until he dramatically dropped his reelection bid on July 21.

Since then, Harris, 59, has reenergized the Democratic base almost overnight.

She has raked in donations, reassembled the team behind Barack Obama’s two historic election victories, and neutralized

the solid lead that 78-year-old Trump had built against Biden in opinion polls.

On Friday, she secured the official Democratic nomination, backed by near unanimous party support.

Harris is due imminently to announce her vice presidential pick, with the popular governor of key state Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro, a frontrunner. On Tuesday, she is set to launch a countrywide tour with her yet-to-be-named running mate.

- Rally in battleground state -

Late Saturday, Trump will be joined by his own vice presidential pick, Senator J.D. Vance, at the rally in Georgia – another battleground state that will help decide who wins the Electoral College majority on November 5.

Trump lost narrowly to Biden there in 2020 and the state was at the center of his unprecedented attempts to overturn the results of the election and refusal to accept defeat.

The size of Harris’s rally on Tuesday was a warning sign to the Trump campaign, which has long touted its ability to draw thousands of passionate supporters, in contrast to Biden’s usually meager crowds.

The situation is a remarkable turnaround in a campaign where Trump had been appearing to gather force while Biden – hurt by a disastrous debate performance in June and mounting voter concerns over his mental acuity – was steadily slipping.

Harris’s rapid entry has left the Trump campaign scrambling – and Trump now the oldest presidential nominee in US history.

Adding to the changed dynamics, Harris is vying to become the first woman president and the first of Black and Indian biracial heritage.

Trump drew gasps at a convention of Black journalists this week when he claimed that Harris, who has identified closely with her Black roots all her life, was only pretending.

UK braces for far-right protests after riots

AFP, London

UK police yesterday readied for more far-right protests across England after a third night of rioting linked to misinformation about a mass stabbing that killed three young girls.

The violence, which has seen scores of arrests and put Britain’s Muslim community on edge, presents the biggest challenge yet of Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s month-old premiership.

It has also put hard-right agitators linked to football hooliganism in the spotlight at a time when anti-immigration elements are enjoying some electoral success in British politics.

Police were gearing up for dozens of demonstrations after officers faced “serious and sustained levels of violence” during rioting in Sunderland, northeast England, on Friday night.

Eight people were arrested and three officers required hospital treatment following hours of “utterly deplorable” disturbances, Northumbria Police Chief Superintendent Helena Barron said.

Two officers remained in hospital early Saturday, she added.

Footage broadcast by the BBC showed a mob of several hundred rampaging in Sunderland’s city centre, attacking police and setting fire to at least one car and a building next to a police office.

Other images shared on social media showed balaclava-clad youths throwing bricks and other missiles as fireworks and flares were let off.

The unrest followed two nights of disturbances in several English towns and cities in the wake of Monday’s frenzied knife attack in Southport, near Liverpool on England’s northwest coast.

They were fuelled by false rumours on social media about the background of British-born 17-year-old suspect Axel Rudakubana, charged with several counts of murder and attempted murder over the attack at a Taylor Swift dance party.

After violence in Southport late Tuesday, unrest rocked the northern cities of Hartlepool and Manchester as well as London 24 hours later, where 111 people were arrested outside Starmer’s Downing Street residence.

In Southport, the mob threw bricks at a mosque, prompting hundreds of Muslim places of worship across the country to step up security.

Police blamed supporters of the disbanded English Defence League, an anti-Islam organisation founded 15 years ago whose supporters have been linked to football hooliganism.

In Sunderland on Friday, rioters attacked police officers, set a police station and two cars on fire, and again targeted a mosque.



Police officers face protesters outside the Liver Building in Liverpool yesterday during the ‘Enough is Enough’ demonstration held in reaction to the fatal stabbings in Southport on July 29.

PHOTO: AFP