

Russia-France ties hit new low after arrest of tech boss

REUTERS, Paris

Relations between Moscow and Paris have reached a nadir following the arrest of Russian-born Telegram boss Pavel Durov...

Durov, who has French as well as Russian nationality, was arrested near Paris over the weekend as part of an investigation into crimes related to images of child sex abuse...

It remains unclear if he knew about the threat of arrest in France. Durov's French lawyer did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Durov's arrest has plunged Moscow-Paris ties to their lowest level, Lavrov said, capping months of deteriorating relations between the two nations.

French authorities accused Russia of trying to destabilise it ahead of the Paris Olympics in response to its more hawkish stance on the Ukraine war...

Durov's detention was extended by 48 hours late on Monday, a spokesperson for the Paris prosecutor's office said yesterday.

With close to 1 billion users, Telegram is particularly influential in Russia, Ukraine and the republics of the former Soviet Union. It presents itself as a haven for free speech...

Without providing evidence, Vyacheslav Volodin, the chairman of Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, earlier said the United States, through France, was attempting to exert control over Telegram.



Police detain an activist as they march towards the state secretariat demanding the resignation of Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of India's West Bengal state, in Kolkata yesterday.

Russia pounds Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Russia fired a wave of attack drones and missiles at Ukraine that killed at least four people, authorities said yesterday after the second night of heavy strikes across the war-battered nation.

The overnight barrage came a day after the Kremlin launched one of its largest ever aerial attacks on Ukraine, which targeted energy facilities and killed several people.

Ukraine's air force yesterday said it downed half of the 10 missiles and 60 of the 81 Iranian-designed attack drones launched from several regions of Russia and from occupied Crimea.

"Unfortunately, despite the effective work of our air defence systems, four people were killed and 16 were wounded," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a post on social media.

He said rescue work was ongoing at the impact sites and vowed a response to the attacks.

"Crimes against humanity cannot be committed with impunity," he said.

AFP journalists in the capital Kyiv heard air raid sirens echo over the city throughout the night

as well as an explosion, likely from air defence systems.

Local authorities said earlier yesterday that two people had been killed in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region and two in the central city of Kryvyi Rig after a missile struck a hotel.



The Russian attacks on Monday triggered widespread blackouts and condemnation from Ukraine's allies in Europe and the US.

Russia said the attack had targeted infrastructure linked to the Ukrainian military. NATO member Poland said its airspace was violated during the barrage, probably by a drone.

Since invading in February 2022, Russia has launched repeated large-scale drone and missile attacks on Ukraine, including punishing strikes on energy facilities.

In Kyiv, Ukraine's electricity grid operator said that emergency

power facilities," Ukrenergo said in a statement, urging Ukrainians to reduce their electricity consumption.

The bombardment comes as Ukrainian forces are pushing an offensive in Russia's border region of Kursk, a surprise operation that has seen Kyiv gain swathes of territory in three weeks.

The governor of Russia's Belgorod region, which borders Kursk and Ukraine, yesterday said he was aware of reports the Ukrainian army had tried to cross the border.

Zelensky said late Monday that Ukraine's surprise cross-border incursion into Kursk region launched on August 6 was partially to "compensate" for Kyiv's inability to strike deeper into Russian territory.

He has been appealing to Ukraine's allies to allow his forces to use Western-supplied weapons to strike targets inside Russian territory as part of efforts to thwart more aerial bombardments.

Despite Ukraine's push inside Kursk, which Kyiv hoped would divert Russian forces from the front line in the east of the war-battered country, Moscow has been making steady gains.

Excessive heat

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flames," the official told The Daily Star at 6:10pm.

He said a team of engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD) visited the factory premises in the afternoon to make an assessment of the damage, but they could not enter the building.

Alauddin said they will not launch a rescue operation until they are given the go-ahead by the expert team.

Saiful Islam, sub-divisional engineer of PWD in Narayanganj, who accompanied the team, said, "The building became very risky as parts of it collapsed and there were some fires."

He said they will visit the factory site again today to decide if it is safe for the firefighters to conduct a rescue operation.

Anwarul Haque, assistant director of fire service, in the morning said, "We managed to reach a staircase on the ground floor and search the roof of the building, but found no one there."

Visiting the factory premises in the afternoon, Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner Mahmudul Haque said the fire service will launch a rescue operation in the quickest possible time.

He said the building had a large stock of sulfur, rubber, plastic, and other raw materials for production of tyres.

The DC said an investigation cell will be formed to prepare a list of the missing.

He said the district administration yesterday formed an eight-member inquiry committee, headed by Narayanganj Additional District Magistrate Hamidur Rahman, to investigate the incident. It has representatives from fire service, Power Division and the police.

LIST OF MISSING PEOPLE

Students started preparing a list of the missing people since noon yesterday. Family members and relatives of 126 missing persons reported to the students till 6:00pm, said Mahima Mir Ripa, a student of Government Murapara College.

She said though the fire broke out on Sunday night, they did not find anyone compiling a list of the missing people till Tuesday morning.

Holding photographs and national identity cards of the missing persons near the factory, their relatives were looking for them, Mahima said.

"Please find my brother alive or dead," said Rafiqul Islam Ratan, brother of Abdul Motaleb, 40, at the main gate to the factory holding Motaleb's NID card and a photo.

Motaleb had rushed to the factory looking for his teenage son Yasin Gazi, a worker of the factory.

Yasin, however, returned home later.

The DC said Ruppangj upazila administration was compiling a list of the missing people. He said they will also collect the list being prepared by the students.

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