



Strike on Yemen migrant centre kills at least 68

AFP, Sanaa

Huthi rebel controlled media in Yemen yesterday said that US strikes targeted a migrant detention centre in the movement's stronghold of Saada, killing at least 68 people.

The US military has hammered the Iran-backed Huthis with near daily strikes since March 15 in an operation dubbed "Rough Rider," seeking to end the threat they pose to vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The Huthis launched strikes targeting Israel and Western vessels in the Red Sea, in what they describe as solidarity with the Palestinians.

On Sunday, the military said it has hit more than 800 targets in Yemen since mid-March, killing hundreds of Huthi rebels, including members of the group's leadership.

The civil defence has announced that 68 African migrants were killed and 47 others wounded in the US attack targeting a centre for illegal migrants in the city of Saada," the Huthis' Al-Masirah TV said.

AFP could not independently confirm the veracity of Al-Masirah's claim that the strikes had hit a migrant detention centre, or the toll.

AFP has contacted the US military for comment.

According to a statement cited by Al-Masirah from the Huthi administration's interior ministry, the centre housed "115 migrants, all from Africa".

The broadcaster showed footage of bodies stuck under the rubble and of rescuers working to help the casualties.

Conclave to elect pope starts May 7

AFP, Vatican City

Catholic cardinals will meet on May 7 to start voting for a new pope, the Vatican announced yesterday, a week after the death of Pope Francis.

So-called "Princes of the Church" under the age of 80 will meet in the Sistine Chapel to choose a new religious leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

The date was decided at a meeting of cardinals of all ages early yesterday, two days after the funeral of Francis, who died on April 1 aged 88.

The Church's 252 cardinals were called back to Rome after the Argentine's death, although only 135 are eligible to vote in the conclave.

The Vatican yesterday closed the Sistine Chapel, where voting will take place under Michelangelo's 16th-century ceiling frescoes, to begin preparations.

So far, there are few clues as to who cardinals might choose.

Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who under Francis was secretary of state, is for many the favourite to succeed him.

British bookmakers William Hill put him slightly ahead of Filipino Luis Antonio Tagle, the Metropolitan Archbishop emeritus of Manila, followed by Ghana's Cardinal Peter Turkson.

First get guarantee for Rohingya return

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would only cover 20 percent of the population's needs. Combined with the near-total halt on trade, over 2 million people were at risk of starvation, it said.

Against this backdrop, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who visited Bangladesh in the middle of March, discussed with Bangladesh authorities the possibilities of a humanitarian corridor to Rakhine via Bangladesh, but added that it requires "authorisation and the cooperation of the parties to the conflict".

A UNSC resolution is required for the deployment of UN Peacekeepers, said Niloy Ranjan Biswas, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University.

"It is unlikely that the UNSC permanent members China and Russia would agree to any such proposal if made ever."

For establishing a humanitarian corridor, it is important to ensure full security in Rakhine, he said.

"Myanmar junta and the Arakan Army must have a full ceasefire," Biswas said.

Every day, 30 to 40 Rohingyas are fleeing to Bangladesh, according to Mizanur Rahman, the refugee relief and

repatriation commissioner.

On the other hand, Bangladesh has to secure a guarantee that the AA, which now reportedly controls about 80 percent of Rakhine, ensures conditions for Rohingya repatriation, he said.

The Rohingya are demanding a guarantee of citizenship, recognition as an ethnic group and safety in Rakhine from where they fled. Neither the Myanmar civilian administration nor the junta government ensured these demands in the past eight years.

"For Bangladesh, it is now very important to understand the position

of the Arakan Army for Rohingya repatriation," Biswas said.

It would have been better if the interim government detailed the conditions for the humanitarian corridor and how the UN proposed to guarantee security and help secure the AA commitment to Rohingya repatriation, he added.

On the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok in April, Bangladesh's National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and Myanmar's Foreign Minister Than Swe held a meeting, where Swe confirmed that 180,000 Rohingya living in Bangladesh are eligible to

return.

Bangladesh is informally engaged with the AA.

"Myanmar is our neighbour. We need to consider our future relations with the country -- call it the central government or the Arakan Army -- as we take any policy towards it.

We also need to see how the important countries like the US, India and China look at the issue," Ahmed said.

It is essential to ensure that no armed group can take advantage of the humanitarian corridor and fuel conflicts in the region, said a government official involved with the proceedings.

Hostility towards

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resisting efforts by fundamentalist and communal groups to create

unrest; and countering activities opposing state policies aimed at building a just and equitable society.

At the press briefing, Rabeya Khatun Shanti, movement secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, presented the keynote paper.

"A total of 442 women and girls were victims of violence across Bangladesh in March 2025," she said.

"Among the reported cases, 163 women, including 125 girls [under 18 years of age], were raped, with 36 cases involving gang rape, including 18 girls.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem said eliminating violence against women is not solely the responsibility of women; rather, it must be a collective effort involving both the state and society.

"The persistent failure to

break free from long-standing discriminatory customs and traditions has continued to create opportunities for misogynistic propaganda, alongside attempts to institutionalise these harmful practices within society. Such efforts to intimidate and confine women are absolutely unacceptable."

She added, "No state can afford to neglect Goal 5 -- Gender Equality -- in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]; the state is committed to this cause."

Fauzia also emphasised that efforts to establish women's rights must involve the entire population, not just isolated organisations.

The organisation's General Secretary Maleka Banu noted that demands for women's rights are increasingly being suppressed under the pretext of protecting societal and religious norms.

Lightning strikes

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Another child, Abu Sufian, 7, was injured and later admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital, said Barura Police OC Kazi Nazmul Haque.

In Kishoreganj, three people died in Aastagram and Mithamoin upazilas.

The deceased are Indrajit Das, 30, of Halalpur village in Aastagram, Swadhin Miya, 14, son of Idris Miya of Khairpur village in Aastagram, and Fulesa Begum, 60, of Raniganj village in Mithamoin.

Fulesa was hit by lightning while drying paddy straw near her house at Shantiganj Haor around 8:30am, said Mithamoin Police Sub-Inspector Arpan Biswas.

Lightning struck Indrajit and Swadhin while they were harvesting

paddy in Halalpur Haor of Aastagram upazila around 10:00am, said Aastagram Police OC Md Ruhul Amin.

In Netrokona, 10-year-old Arafat, son of Abdus Salam of Tiyojhree village, was struck by lightning on his way to a madrasa in Madan upazila around 6:30am, said Madan Upazila Nirbahi Officer Aliduzzaman.

In Sunamganj, lightning struck young man as he was bringing back his cattle from a nearby haor during a thunderstorm around 7:00am.

Rimon Talukder, 20, was an undergrad student at Shalla Government Degree College and a resident of Atgaon village, said Shalla Police OC Shafiqul Islam.

In Habiganj, Durbas Das, 35, died, and three others were injured in separate incidents of lightning strikes in Baniaichong upazila.

The injured were taken to Sylher MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital, Azadur Rahman, district relief and disaster management officer, told UNB.

In Shariatpur, Shefali Begum, 35, was hit by lightning while collecting grass for her cattle at a field in Bhedarganj upazila around 3:30pm.

Sakhipur Police Station OC Obaidul Haque said she died at a hospital.

Save the Society and Thunderstorm Awareness Forum (SSTAF), an NGO monitoring lightning-related casualties since 2019, reports that 1,322 people lost their lives to lightning strikes between 2019 and 2023, averaging 264 deaths annually.

Our correspondents from Cumilla, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Sylhet, and Shariatpur contributed to the report.

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Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences

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Department of Pharmacy

Admission Circular (Batch: 08P)

Fall 2025 (August-January)

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Contact (Application form and further information)

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GD-995

Israel using aid blockage as 'weapon of war'

Palestinian official tells ICJ as food runs out in the tiny Palestinian enclave



A Palestinian mother cries, holding the body of her baby, at the Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. The baby was killed in an Israeli air strike.

PHOTO: AFP

Iran port blast toll rises to 46

AFP, Tehran

Firefighters in Iran battled raging fires yesterday at the country's largest commercial port, two days after a massive explosion killed at least 46 people, state TV reported.

The blast took place on Saturday at Shahid Rajaei Port in Iran's south near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which one-fifth of global oil output passes.

"The death toll in the Shahid Rajaei Port fire has reached 46," the official IRNA news agency reported, quoting Mehrdad Hassanzadeh, the crisis management director for Hormozgan province.

Officials had said more than 1,000 people were injured, but Hassanzadeh said most have now been released after treatment.

Only 138 wounded are still in hospital," he said.

Iran's state TV said the damage will be assessed after the fire is fully brought under control.

It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion but the port's customs office said it likely resulted from a fire that broke out at the hazardous and chemical materials storage depot.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered a probe into the incident to determine if there was "any negligence or intent".