

Wars now displace over 122m as aid funding falls
Says UN refugee agency

REUTERS, Geneva

The number of people displaced by war and persecution around the world climbed above 122 million this year due to a failure to resolve multi-year conflicts such as those in Sudan and Ukraine, the UN refugee agency said yesterday, noting that funding to help the refugees has fallen to 2015 levels.

There were over 2 million more people displaced globally by the end of April 2025 than there was the previous year despite the return of nearly the same number of Syrians after the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's rule, according to the report by United Nations High

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Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

The report attributed the rise to major conflicts in Sudan, Myanmar and Ukraine and a "continued failure to stop the fighting".

"We are living in a time of intense volatility in international relations, with modern warfare creating a fragile, harrowing landscape marked by acute human suffering," Grandi said in a statement alongside the report.

The surge in displacement numbers comes as funding to help them has fallen to 2015 levels when the total number of refugees around the world stood at about half current levels, UNHCR said.

It described the cuts in aid as "brutal and ongoing" and said the situation was untenable, leaving refugees and others vulnerable.

Humanitarians complain that a lack of political leadership in brokering peace deals is prolonging conflicts and stretching aid groups tasked with addressing their impacts.



The body of a Palestinian is transported by car as mourners gather for the funeral of Palestinians who, according to medics, were killed by Israeli fire at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City yesterday.

Iran in breach of nuclear obligations

Says UN watchdog; US evacuates personnel from ME in sign of growing regional tension

REUTERS, Vienna

The UN nuclear watchdog's board of governors declared Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations yesterday and Tehran announced counter-measures, as tensions rose in the Middle East before further US Iranian nuclear talks.

US and Iranian officials will hold a sixth round of talks on Tehran's accelerating uranium enrichment programme in Oman on Sunday, the Omani foreign minister said yesterday.

But security fears have risen since US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday American personnel were being moved out of the region because "it could be a dangerous place" and that Tehran would not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's policy-making Board of Governors declared Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations for the first time in almost 20 years, raising the prospect of reporting it to the UN Security Council.

The step is the culmination of several stand-offs between the Vienna-based IAEA and Iran since Trump pulled the US out of a nuclear deal between Tehran and major powers in 2018 during his first term, after which that accord unravelled.

An IAEA official said Iran had responded by informing the nuclear watchdog that it plans to open a new uranium enrichment facility.

The move by Iran was among several measures being taken because of the resolution, Iranian state TV said.

Japan, China trade barbs over fighter jet manoeuvres

AFP, Tokyo

Beijing yesterday condemned what it called "dangerous behaviour" by a Japanese military plane over the Pacific after Tokyo said Chinese fighter jets flew unusually close to its aircraft at the weekend.

The Japanese government had complained to China over the incident, in which no Japanese military personnel were reported injured.

A Chinese J-15 fighter jet from the Shandong aircraft carrier followed a Japanese P-3C patrol plane for 40 minutes on Saturday, said Japanese defence ministry.

IMMIGRATION RAIDS
Protests spread across US despite Trump threats

AFP, Los Angeles

Protests over headline immigration tactics ignited across the United States after days of demonstrations in Los Angeles, as California yesterday prepared for a legal showdown over President Donald Trump's deployment of the military.

More than 1,000 people massed Wednesday in America's second biggest city, for a sixth day of protests, with the crowd peaceful as they marched through the streets.

A second night of curfew was in place as city leaders try to get a handle on the after-dark vandalism and looting that scarred a few city blocks in the 500-square-mile (1,300 square kilometers) metropolis.

"I would say for the most part everything is hunky dory right here at Ground Zero," protester Lynn Sturgis, 66, a retired school teacher, told AFP. The mostly peaceful protests ignited over a sudden escalation in efforts to apprehend migrants in the country illegally.

Trump unveils website for \$5m US residency visa

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump touted a new website for his planned \$5 million US residency permit on Wednesday, saying the waiting list for the golden visa has opened on TrumpCard.gov.

"Thousands have been calling and asking how they can sign up to ride a beautiful road in gaining access to the Greatest Country and Market anywhere in the World," Trump wrote in a social media post.

Trump unveiled the first such visa aboard Air Force One in April, holding a golden prototype that bore his face and promising the special permit would probably be available "in less than two weeks."

The visas are not available yet, but the website announced Wednesday allows interested parties to submit their name, desired visa and email address under a header that says "The Trump Card is Coming."

Advertisement for Bangladesh Navy recruitment. Title: বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী. Subtitle: সরাসরি কমিশন্ড অফিসার পদে ২০২৬এ ডিইও ব্যাচে যোগ দিন. Includes details on application process, eligibility, and contact information.