

# Myanmar clashes force thousands to flee to India

AFP, New Delhi

Heavy fighting in war-torn Myanmar has forced nearly 4,000 people to flee into India in the last four days, Indian officials in the northeastern state of Mizoram said yesterday.

The refugees, crossing thick forested routes to neighbouring India, ran from clashes between rival Chin armed groups, Mizoram state home secretary Vanlalmawia, who uses only one name, told AFP.

“Many of the people have relatives on the Indian side, so they are staying with them,” he said. “Others are being housed in community halls.”

The remote hill state is already hosting more than 30,000 refugees from Myanmar, where a deadly civil war has raged since the military seized power in 2021.

A senior state police officer said “approximately 4,000 people have come in the last four days”, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Police said the fighting between the groups -- both of which oppose military rule -- continues for control of the region known as Chinland.

“The situation on the other side of the border remains tense, so we have not asked them to return,” the police official said.

India, which has sought to deepen ties with Myanmar as a counterweight to China's growing influence, has shied away from explicitly condemning the military coup.

Mizoram's interior minister K Sapdanga confirmed the new arrivals, but put the number of refugees at 3,000.

“The fighting is beyond our control. People have come in and on humanitarian grounds, we have to provide drinking water, food and shelter,” Sapdanga told Reuters.



## NEW UKRAINE REGION Russian forces claim first foothold

### Transport minister fired by Putin reportedly shoots himself dead

AGENCIES

Russia said yesterday it captured its first village in Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region after grinding towards the border for months, dealing a psychological blow for Kyiv as its worries mount.

Moscow launched a fresh large-scale drone and missile barrage before the announcement, including on Ukraine's army recruitment centres, as part of an escalating series of attacks that come as ceasefire talks led by the United States stall.

The Russian defence ministry said its forces captured the village of Dachne in the Dnipropetrovsk region, an important industrial mining territory that has also come under mounting Russian air attacks.

Russian strikes killed at least four people and wounded more than 30 others across Ukraine early yesterday, spurring evacuations from damaged housing blocs and sending civilians to bomb shelters, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, Russia's former transport minister Roman Starovoi shot himself dead in Odintsovo following his dismissal by President Vladimir Putin yesterday, the pro-government newspaper Izvestia reported, citing unnamed sources.

Starovoi's ouster came after nearly 500 flights were grounded at major Russian airports on July 5-6 due to security threats from Ukrainian drone attacks, reports The Kyiv Independent.



Migrants speak with authorities at the port of Agia Galini, Greece, on Sunday, after the Greek Coast Guard rescued hundreds of people in separate incidents off the islands of Gavdos and Crete. Sea arrivals from northeastern Libya of migrants trying to cross to Europe have surged in recent months.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Israel bombs ports, power plant in Yemen

## Houthis continue to fire missiles; Iran president says ‘no problem’ restarting nuke talks with US

AGENCIES

Israel struck Houthi targets at three Yemeni ports and a power plant, the military said early yesterday, in its first attack on Yemen in nearly a month.

The strikes hit the ports of Hodeidah, Ras Isa and Salif, as well as the Ras Qantib power plant on the coast, in response to repeated Houthi attacks on Israel, the military said.

Hours later, Israel said two missiles were

a ship, the Galaxy Leader, which was seized by the Houthis in late 2023 and held in Ras Isa port.

“The Houthi terrorist regime's forces installed a radar system on the ship, and are using it to track vessels in international maritime space in order to promote the Houthi terrorist regime's activities,” the military said.

The Houthi military spokesperson said the group's air defences had responded to the Israeli attack with “a large number of



launched from Yemen. Attempts were made to intercept them, though the results were still under review. The Iran-aligned Houthi forces said they had fired missiles and drones at multiple targets in Israel in retaliation for the strikes on Yemen, reports Reuters.

The Israeli ambulance service said it had not received any calls regarding missile impacts or casualties following the launches from Yemen.

Since the start of the offensive in Gaza in October 2023, the Houthis have fired at Israel and at shipping in the Red Sea, disrupting global trade, in what the group says are acts of solidarity with the Palestinians.

Most of the dozens of missiles and drones fired toward Israel have been intercepted or fallen short. Israel has carried out a series of retaliatory strikes.

Israel said its attacks yesterday also targeted

domestically produced surface-to-air missiles”.

Israel's military told residents to evacuate the three ports before it launched its attacks. Residents of Hodeidah told Reuters that the strikes on the power station had knocked out electricity. There was no immediate information on casualties.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said in an interview released yesterday that his country has “no problem” restarting nuclear talks with the United States, provided that trust can be reestablished between the two countries, reports AFP.

“We see no problem in re-entering the negotiations,” Pezeshkian told US media figure Tucker Carlson. “There is a condition ... for restarting the talks. How are we going to trust the United States again?”

## Parties agree on lower courts

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for political gain, he said.

Prof Riaz said that consensus was reached on two critical points: revising clauses 141(a), (b), (c), and (d) of the constitution, which deal with the issue of proclamation of emergency.

“This does not mean the issue is fully resolved. We expect to reach a final decision after Thursday's discussions,” Riaz added.

Now the president can declare an emergency for 120 days if he or she is satisfied that a grave emergency exists in which the security or economic life of Bangladesh, or any part thereof, is threatened by war or external aggression or internal disturbance.

During an emergency, enforcement of fundamental rights remains suspended.

The commission's draft proposal recommends limiting emergency periods to 60 days and guaranteeing that citizens' fundamental rights and access to courts cannot be suspended under any circumstances.

BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed said, “Everyone has agreed on amending article 141 to change the provision for a state of emergency. However, such an important decision should only be made after extensive debate in the Jatiya Sangsad.”

He added that new laws may be required, and parliamentary deliberation is essential.

NCP Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain said the specifics of any amendments must be settled during these

sessions. “Even if an emergency is declared, we must ensure that fundamental rights are not violated,” he said.

He added that the party proposed holding a constituent assembly election to allow broader constitutional deliberation.

NCP Joint Convenor Javed Rasin expressed frustration, saying, “There is constant talk about further discussion in the next parliament, but no decision on how to implement reform proposals. If so, dissolve the talks and let us leave. Why do we need this dialogue if it only toys with the public?”

Then Salahuddin again said, “We have discussed this for six or seven days. Frankly, I now doubt your intentions.”

Jamaat-e-Islami's Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad pointed out that a state of emergency was imposed in Bangladesh five times, each time for political reasons. He proposed forming a parliamentary committee with both government and opposition MPs to vet the declaration of emergency and ensure citizens' rights are protected.

Speaking about the judiciary, Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon, said priority should be given to delivering services to people's doorsteps, rather than worrying that the number of cases will increase if courts are established at the upazila level.

BNP's Salahuddin said subordinate courts are unnecessary in upazilas very close to district headquarters and within district towns themselves. He called for a targeted

## Israel kills 12 more in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli forces killed at least 12 people yesterday, including six in a clinic housing Palestinians displaced after 21 months of war.

Israel has recently expanded its military operations in the Gaza Strip, where the war has created dire humanitarian conditions for Gaza's population of more than two million.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP that six people were killed and 15 injured in an Israeli air strike that hit the Al-Rimal clinic, “which houses hundreds of displaced people, in the Al-Rimal neighbourhood west of Gaza City.”

In the south of the territory, Bassal said two people were killed and 20 others injured by Israeli forces' gunfire while waiting for aid near a distribution site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) northwest of Rafah.

## Polls delay will push Reform blockers are to blame

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order will deteriorate. That's why we need an elected government -- one that has the people behind it, one that has public support. No government can be stronger than a democratically elected one,” he said.

Addressing party leaders and activists, Fakhru said, “We must ensure that no one can speak ill of us. No one should be able to point fingers and say we are ... grabbing land, occupying roads, or extorting money. ... We must unite everyone.”

He said the fascist regime of Sheikh Hasina did not fall in a day. Many had to make extreme sacrifices for the last 15 years before the fall of her government last year.

“Thousands of false cases have been filed against our people. Many of our leaders sitting here today were shackled and kept imprisoned for months right here in

Sylhet. Many were tortured. ... After enduring all these, we are here today,” he said.

“Now, as we are freed from fascism, what should we do? The fight is now for democracy. We want a democratic state where people can vote freely, express their views, where youth get opportunities for education and employment, women feel safe, and healthcare is accessible,” Fakhru said.

Referring to BNP's 31-point agenda, he said, “That document outlines the vision for a future Bangladesh. The youth want to move forward, and BNP must lead that change.”

On Sunday, Fakhru, while speaking at a press conference at the BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office, said those who want to delay the election are certainly not pro-democratic or supporters of the July-August revolution.

FROM PAGE 12 [Sheikh] Hasina and her fascist regime, and evaluate those who are trying to get the position of Hasina's chair. “We want to build a nation with the new spirit,” the NCP said, demanding an impartial role of the police and administration after the fascist regime was

toppled.

“We have seen how the police and administration played a partisan role during the Awami League's tenure. After the removal of Hasina's fascist regime, we don't want a return to such party-loyal administration. We want the police and administration to play an

impartial role in building the nation.”

Nahid said, “We want an inclusive country, which is why we need a new democratic constitution that upholds the spirit of the 1947 partition, the Language Movement, the Liberation War, and the mass uprisings.”

## Playing field not level for nat'l

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to participate whenever the government announces the election. However, it also said that no election will be allowed to be held in a haphazard manner,” he said.

“The ameer said that we want an election, but not in an atmosphere where the administration will be biased, it won't act neutrally, there'll be election engineering and grabbing of polling

stations,” Parwar clarified. “People still have doubts about the government's role. That's why we're saying that the playing field is not level. That's why the ameer said we can't accept an election in this situation. There must be a level playing field,” he said.

The Jamaat announced the Suhrawardy Udyan rally last month to press home the party's seven-point demand, including

trials for all mass killings, essential fundamental reforms, implementation of the July Charter and July Declaration, and rehabilitation of the families of those killed and injured in the July uprising.

The party also demanded that the next parliament be formed under a proportional representation (PR) system, with arrangements for expatriates to cast their votes.

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