

Indian army killed leaders in Myanmar strikes Says India rebel group

AFP, NEW Delhi

Separatist militants in northeastern India said the Indian army carried out cross-border drone strikes on the group's camps in neighbouring Myanmar yesterday, killing three of its leaders.

Some rebel groups in northeastern India have ethnic, linguistic and cultural ties with minorities across the border in Myanmar and maintain a presence there.

A top commander of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) was killed and 19 others wounded in a drone attack in Myanmar near the border, the separatist group said.

"Two more senior commanders were killed" in subsequent strikes, ULFA said, adding: "Several other members and civilians were also wounded."

Several hurt in anti-migrant unrest in Spanish town

AFP, Madrid

Several people were hurt in a second night of anti-migrant unrest in the Spanish town of Torre Pacheco after a pensioner was beaten up, authorities said yesterday.

Despite a major police presence, groups armed with batons roamed the streets looking for foreign-origin people, regional newspaper La Opinion de Murcia reported.

The regional government did not say how many people were injured but stated that at least one person had been arrested for the violence.

The unrest erupted after a 68 year old man told Spanish media he was beaten up in the street on Wednesday by three youths of North African origin.

The attack was filmed and put on social media.

The town hall organised a demonstration on Friday that was intended to be peaceful but where far-right elements shouted anti-migrant slogans.

One group, named "Deport Them Now", posted a message on social media calling for attacks against people of North African origin.

Spanish authorities launched an appeal for calm yesterday in the town of 36,000 people.

French prisoner escapes in fellow inmate's luggage

AFP, Lyon

France's prison service said Saturday it had launched an investigation after a man escaped by smuggling himself into his cellmate's bag as he left jail, having served his sentence.

The 20-year-old prisoner escaped from Corbas prison, near Lyon, southeast France, on Friday, broadcaster BFMTV reported.

The inmate was serving several sentences, the prison service said in a statement to AFP.

He "took advantage of the liberation of his fellow inmate to hide himself in his luggage and get out", the statement said.

The escaped prisoner was also under investigation in a case linked to organised crime, a source close to the affair told AFP. An internal investigation is underway and Lyon prosecutors had opened their own investigations, the prison service added.

Last month, the Lyon Bar Association expressed alarm about overcrowding at the Lyon Corbas prison.

As of 1 May 2025, around 1,200 people were detained in the prison, which has capacity for 678 places, BFMTV had reported.

Sébastien Cauwel, the director of the prison administration, told BFMTV yesterday that an "accumulation of errors" and "a series of serious malfunctions" led to the escape.



People gather around the Freedom Flotilla ship "Handala" ahead of the boat's departure for Gaza in Syracuse, Sicily, southern Italy, yesterday. "The vessel will carry life-saving humanitarian aid and a message of solidarity from people around the world refusing to stay silent as Gaza is starved, bombed, and buried under rubble," The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) said in a statement.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel increased Rafah demolition

Aims to transfer entire population of Gaza to 'humanitarian city' in the south

AGENCIES

Demolition operations being conducted by Israel in Gaza's southern Rafah Governorate have been stepped up sharply, an investigation by Al Jazeera's Sanad investigations unit has found.

Israel's defence ministry has announced a plan to relocate 600,000 people into what observers say would be "concentration camps" in the area in southern Gaza, with plans to expand this to the Strip's entire population.

Sanad's analysis of satellite imagery up to July 4, 2025, shows the number of demolished buildings in Rafah rising to about 28,600, up from 15,800 on April 4, 2025, according to data from the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT).

This means that approximately 12,800 buildings were destroyed between early April and early July alone – a marked acceleration in demolitions that has coincided with Israel's new push into Rafah launched in late March 2025.

Israel's defence minister, Israel Katz, told reporters last Monday that an initial 600,000 Palestinians living in the coastal al-Mawasi area would be transferred to Rafah, the location for what he called a new "humanitarian city" for Palestinians, within 60 days of any agreed ceasefire deal.

According to Katz, the entire civilian population of Gaza –



more than 2 million people – will eventually be relocated to this southern city.

A proposal seen by Reuters carrying the name of the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) detailed plans for a "Humanitarian Transit Area" in which Gaza residents would "temporarily reside, deradicalise, re-integrate and prepare to relocate if they wish to do so".

The minister said Israel hopes to encourage Palestinians to "voluntarily emigrate" from the Gaza Strip to other countries, adding that this plan "should be fulfilled".

He also stressed that the plan would not be run by the Israeli army, but by international bodies, without specifying which organisations would be implementing it.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) – which has been banned by Israel – warned against the latest mass forced displacement plan.

"This would de facto create massive concentration camps at the border with Egypt for the Palestinians, displaced over and over across generations," he said, adding that it would "deprive Palestinians of any prospects of a better future in their homeland".

Israeli political commentator Ori Goldberg told Al Jazeera that the plan was "for all facts and purposes a concentration camp" for Palestinians in southern Gaza, meaning that Israel is committing "what is an overt crime against humanity under international humanitarian law".

Australia defence ties repaired after submarine row

Says France

AFP, Sydney

France's defence relations with Australia have recovered after their 2021 bust-up over a major submarine contract, the country's ambassador said yesterday.

Paris expressed its "strong regrets" when Australia tore up a multibillion-dollar deal to buy a fleet of diesel-powered submarines from France, Ambassador Pierre-André Imbert said.

Since the 2022 election of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, however, the defence relationship had been "restarted", he said.

"Now, the first pillar of our cooperation is defence and security, so we have a very good level of cooperation," the ambassador told AFP as French forces joined major military drills around Australia.

When Australia ditched the French deal, it opted instead to acquire nuclear-powered vessels in a new three-way AUKUS pact with the US and Britain.

But a US defence official last month revealed that a review of AUKUS was underway to ensure it "aligned with the President's America First agenda" and that the US defence industrial base was "meeting our needs".

TIBET'S DALAI LAMA Succession issue a 'thorn' in ties with India: China

REUTERS, New Delhi

The succession of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, is a thorn in China-India relations, the Chinese embassy in New Delhi said yesterday, as India's foreign minister prepares to visit China for the first time since deadly border clashes in 2020.

Ahead of celebrations this month for his 90th birthday that were attended by senior Indian ministers, the head of Tibetan Buddhists riled China again by saying it had no role in his succession. Tibetans believe the soul of any senior Buddhist monk is reincarnated after his death, but China says the Dalai Lama's succession will also have to be approved by its leaders.

The Dalai Lama has been living in exile in India since 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, and Indian foreign relations experts say his presence gives New Delhi leverage against China. India is also home to about 70,000 Tibetans and a Tibetan government in exile.

Yu Jing, a Chinese embassy spokesperson, said on social media app X that some people from strategic and academic communities in India had made "improper remarks" on the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.

Yu did not name anyone but in recent days, Indian strategic affairs analysts and a government minister backed the Dalai Lama's remarks on his succession.

ISRAELI STRIKE Iranian president lightly hurt during war last month

ANADOLU AGENCY

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian sustained minor leg injuries during an Israeli strike that targeted a meeting of Iran's Supreme National Security Council during the war between both countries last month, the Fars News Agency reported.

According to the report on Saturday, the missile attack occurred on June 17 as top Iranian leaders, including the heads of the three branches of government, were meeting in a secure lower level of a building in western Tehran.

The strike involved six projectiles that hit the entrances and exits of the building, an approach similar to an assassination operation on Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Fars said.

Officials managed to evacuate using a pre-planned emergency hatch, the agency reported, noting that Pezeshkian was "injured during the evacuation but was able to exit safely".

The report also said Iranian authorities suspect a possible internal leak, citing the accuracy of the strike.

Fars criticised Western and Israeli-affiliated media outlets for ignoring a "blatant act of state terrorism" while condemning Iranian leaders' religious rulings against figures like US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

A 12-day armed conflict between Israel and Iran erupted on June 13 after Tel Aviv launched airstrikes on Iranian military, nuclear and civilian sites, killing at least 606 people and injuring 5,332, according to Iran's Health Ministry.

CALIFORNIA STATE Farm worker dies after immigration raid

AFP, Camarillo

A farm worker has died after being injured during a raid by US immigration agents on a legal cannabis farm in California, his family said on Saturday.

Raids on agricultural sites Thursday resulted in the arrests of 200 undocumented migrants, as part of US President Donald Trump's wide-ranging anti-immigration crackdown, and clashes between law enforcement officials and protesters.

The farm worker's family had started a page on the fundraising platform GoFundMe to help support his relatives in Mexico. On Saturday, the page posted an update to say he had "passed away".

Trump campaigned for the presidency on a harsh anti-immigration platform, likening undocumented migrants to "animals" and "monsters".



A firefighter from the GRAE team, which specialises in special operations, takes part in a search for two missing people along the Foix river which overflowed Saturday night due to heavy rain across Spain, in Cubelles, Barcelona province, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS