

Israel steps up Syria strikes

Two drones hit entrance to defence ministry in Damascus as Druze clashes continue

REUTERS, Damascus

Powerful airstrikes shook Damascus yesterday, targeting the defence ministry as Israel vowed to destroy Syrian government forces attacking Druze communities in southern Syria and demanded they withdraw.

Reuters reporters heard warplanes swoop low over the capital and unleash a series of massive strikes on central Damascus. The cityscape was blanketed in smoke with a thick plume rising from the defence ministry. Health ministry said one person was killed and another 18 were injured.

An Israeli airstrike hit next to the presidential palace in Damascus. There was no immediate Israeli comment on powerful strikes that hit in the mid-afternoon, which Syrian state media said were carried out by Israel.

The Israeli military had earlier announced a strike on the gate of the defence ministry. Shortly before the massive blasts, Defence Minister Israel Katz had said "painful blows will come".

Scores of people have been killed this week in violence

- » Israel warns Syria to leave Druze alone, vows continued strikes
- » Violence in Syria involves Druze, Bedouin, govt forces
- » Death toll from southern Syria violence rises to 169

around the southern city of Sweida, pitting fighters from the Druze minority against government security forces and members of Bedouin tribes, prompting Israel to strike repeatedly with the declared aim of protecting the Druze.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights reported that 169 people had been killed in this week's violence. Security sources put the toll at 300. "We are surrounded and we hear the fighters screaming ... we're so scared," said a resident of Sweida, a predominantly Druze city, who was reached by phone.

The crack of gunfire interspersed by booms could be heard in the background. "We're trying to keep the children quiet so that no one can hear us," the man added, asking not to be identified for fear of reprisals.

The violence has underlined big challenges facing interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa despite warming ties with the US, as he seeks to stitch Syria back together in the face of deep misgivings from groups that reject Islamist rule. Syrian government troops were dispatched to the Sweida region on Monday to quell fighting between Druze fighters and Bedouin armed men.



Smoke rises after a drone attack targeted oil facilities in the Zakhro area of Iraq's Kurdistan region yesterday. Kurdish authorities said explosive-laden drones struck three oil fields in the autonomous region.

LANCET REPORT
Global health aid sinks to 15-yr low in 'era of austerity'

AFP, Paris

Sweeping foreign aid cuts led by the United States will cause international health funding to plummet to the lowest level in 15 years, a study said yesterday, warning the world has entered a new "era of global health austerity."

Money that provides healthcare to some of the poorest and most in-need people across the world has been dramatically slashed this year, led by the administration of US President Donald Trump.

The new study published in the prestigious Lancet journal also pointed to recent steep aid cuts announced by the UK, France and Germany.

After reaching an all-time high of \$80 billion in 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic, the total amount of global health aid will sink to \$39 billion this year, the US-led team of researchers estimated.

'Credible' Epstein files should be released: Trump

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump said Tuesday the US Justice Department should release all "credible" information from its probe into notorious sex criminal Jeffrey Epstein as he sought to douse a firestorm of criticism from his supporters over his handling of the case.

Trump is facing the most serious split of his political career from his famously loyal right-wing base over suspicions that his administration is covering up lurid details of Epstein's crimes to protect rich and powerful figures they say are implicated.

"The attorney general has handled that very well," the Republican leader said of Pam Bondi, who leads the Justice Department, when he was asked about the case at the White House.

Trump repeated his claim that the Epstein files were "made up" by his Democratic predecessors in the White House -- even though he said multiple times during the election campaign that he would "probably" release them. "She's handled it very well, and it's going to be up to her," Trump said. "Whatever she thinks is credible, she should release."

Trump's latest comments mark a softening of his stance -- he had voiced frustration in the Oval Office and online about his supporters' fixation on Epstein and pleaded with them to move on. "I don't understand why the Jeffrey Epstein case would be of interest to anybody," Trump told reporters Tuesday night, adding: "It's pretty boring stuff."

The president's "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) movement has long held as an article of faith that "Deep State" elites are protecting Epstein's most powerful associates in the Democratic Party.



Syrian security forces deploy as residents flee their homes amid ongoing clashes in the southern Sweida city yesterday. Damascus deployed troops in the predominantly Druze province of Sweida, after clashes between Druze fighters and Bedouin tribes killed scores of people.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia defies Trump's warning over Ukraine

Fires hundreds of drones at Ukraine; one killed, dozens hurt; energy infrastructure hit

AFP, Kyiv

Russia fired hundreds of drones, artillery and a ballistic missile at Ukraine between late Tuesday and early yesterday, Ukraine said, defying calls by Donald Trump to reach a peace deal.

The attacks left one woman dead and wounded more than two dozen people across multiple regions, while a missile attack cut power and water in Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's home city of Kryvyi Rih, according to authorities.

The bombardment came two days after US President Trump threatened to impose severe

sanctions against the country unless it reached a peace settlement within 50 days to end its three-year war on Ukraine.

Ukrainian and Russian officials last met for direct peace talks more than a month ago, and no further meetings have been scheduled despite the Kremlin saying it is open for more talks.

Russia fired at least 400 drones at Ukraine between late Tuesday and early yesterday, as well as an Iskander ballistic missile launched from the annexed Crimean peninsula, the Ukrainian air force said.

Overnight drone attacks on the central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia

left eight wounded, while three were wounded in an attack on the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, local authorities said.

Russian attacks on the city of Kryvyi Rih wounded at least 15 people, destroyed an industrial building and disrupted power and water supplies, according to local officials.

A 17-year-old boy was among those injured, the city's mayor Oleksandr Vilkul said on Telegram.

"He was wounded in the abdominal cavity. He was immediately taken to the hospital, in serious condition. Now doctors are fighting for his life," he wrote.

Israel war meant to 'overthrow system' in Iran

AFP, Tehran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday that Israel's attacks during last month's 12-day war were intended to weaken the Islamic republic's system and spark unrest to topple it.

"The calculation and plan of the aggressors was to weaken the system by targeting certain figures and sensitive centres in Iran," said Khamenei in a statement published on his website.

He said the move was meant to stir "unrest and bring people into the streets to overthrow the system".

Israel's attacks took place two days before Iran and the United States were scheduled to meet for a sixth round of nuclear talks which had begun on April 12. The talks have not since resumed.

'Strong argument' for video in airline cockpit: IATA chief

AFP, Singapore

There is a "strong argument" for putting video cameras in airline cockpits to assist in accident investigations, the head of global aviation industry group IATA said yesterday.

The comments by Willie Walsh, director general of the International Air Transport Association, followed the release of a preliminary report on last month's Air India crash, which found that the plane's engine fuel switches had been turned off.

The report, issued Saturday by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), did not offer any conclusions or apportion blame for the June 12 disaster, but indicated that one pilot asked the other why he cut off fuel, and the second pilot responded that he had not.

The crash killed all but one of the 242 people on board as well as 19 people on the ground.

Walsh, a former commercial airline pilot, said he understood the reluctance of pilots to put video cameras in the cockpit.



জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

বাংলাদেশ

Legal Notice

This notification is placed on behalf of our client, National University, Bangladesh established in 1992, having its registered office located at Board Bazar, Gazipur-1704, Bangladesh.

This is to notify the public that our client, National University has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Md. Abu Taher, Father's Name: Bosir Uddin, Mother's Name: Shabana Bibi, NID No- 8698578773, Hazi Bari, Pedda, Mudaforgonj-3562, Borura, Cumilla where the parties have proposed to enter into a transaction to purchase immovable assets together with all fixed structures described in the schedule detailed below:

In relation to the proposed transaction detailed above, Legal Due diligence of the said assets together with all fixed structures described in the schedule has been initiated and the same is in process.

With regard to the proposed transaction, it is hereby requested that any person or entity claiming to have any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of the said land together with all fixed structures by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement or under any agreement of sale or power of attorney, opinion, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise however, to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the address mentioned hereinbelow within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand and the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purpose.

Schedule-1

Total Land Area: 22.44 decimal

Mouza: Colmessor: J. L. No.-016 Circle: Tongi District: Gazipur

Name of the Seller	SA Khatian No	SA Dag No	RS Khatian No	RS Dag/Plot No	RS Zot No	Total Land
Md. Abu Taher Father: Bosir Uddin Mother: Shabana Bibi NID No- 8698578773 Hazi Bari, Pedda, Mudaforgonj-3562, Borura, Cumilla	242	620	333	807/863	6918	22.44 decimal

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