

## Israeli military strikes Houthi ‘energy site’ in Yemen

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's military said yesterday it struck an “energy infrastructure site” in Yemen used by the Houthi rebels, the latest action against the Iran-backed group which has launched attacks at Israel throughout the Gaza war.

A military statement said Israeli forces “struck... deep inside Yemen, targeting an energy infrastructure site that served the Houthi terrorist regime” in the area of Yemen's rebel-held capital Sanaa, without naming the site.

The Houthis' Al-Masirah TV, citing a civil defence source, reported “an aggression targeting the Haziz power plant” south of Sanaa. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Since October 2023 start of Israel-Hamas war in Gaza Strip, the Houthis have repeatedly fired missiles and drones at Israel, claiming to act in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Most Houthi attacks have been intercepted, but have prompted Israeli air strikes on rebel targets in Yemen. The military said its latest “strikes were conducted in response to repeated attacks” by the Houthis.

On Thursday Israel said it intercepted a missile fired from Yemen, with the Houthis later claiming responsibility for it.

Beyond attacks on Israel, Houthis have also targeted alleged Israeli-linked ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden off Yemen. The Iran-backed group broadened its campaign to target ships tied to the US and UK after the two countries began military strikes.



Volunteers carry food and medical supplies for flood victims in the Buner district of Pakistan's mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province yesterday. Pakistani rescuers dug through debris and massive boulders in search of survivors after flash floods killed at least 344 people, with more than 150 still missing.

PHOTO: AFP

## RELOCATION OF RESIDENTS FROM GAZA CITY Hamas rejects Israel’s plan

AGENCIES

Palestinian group Hamas said yesterday that Israel's plan to relocate residents from Gaza City constitutes a “new wave of genocide and displacement” for hundreds of thousands of residents in the area.

The group said the planned deployment of tents and other shelter equipment by Israel into southern Gaza was a “blatant deception”.

The Israeli military has said it is preparing to provide tents and other equipment that started yesterday ahead of its plan to relocate residents from combat zones to the south of the enclave “to ensure their safety”.

Hamas said in a statement that the deployment of tents under the guise of

humanitarian purposes is a blatant deception intended to “cover up a brutal crime that the occupation forces prepare to execute”, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces bombed al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City yesterday, killing at least seven people.

According to Gaza medical sources, at least 21 people were killed in Israeli attacks across the coastal enclave since the early hours of yesterday morning. Seven of them were killed in an Israeli airstrike on al-Ahli Hospital.

At least 13 Palestinians seeking aid were killed by Israeli forces near the Morag axis and at aid distribution centres. The total number of aid seekers killed since May 27, when Israel introduced a new aid distribution mechanism

through the US-based GHF, has reached at least 1,924, with more than 14,288 injured, according to Gaza's health ministry.

11 more people have died of Israel-induced starvation in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 251, it said. The victims include 108 children.

In the occupied West Bank, the Wafa news agency reported that Israeli forces have arrested three Palestinians in a raid on the city of Bethlehem.

A group of UN staff members has launched a new campaign in support of Palestinians facing atrocities in Gaza, with the former UN assistant secretary general for human rights, Andrew Gilmour, as their chair, Al Jazeera reports.

## CRIME EMERGENCY 3 Republican-led states to deploy National Guard troops to US capital

REUTERS

The Republican governors of three states are deploying hundreds of National Guard troops to Washington, DC, at the request of the administration of President Donald Trump, who has portrayed the city as awash in crime.

The announcements on Saturday of troops from hundreds of miles away in West Virginia, South Carolina and Ohio came a day after DC officials and the Trump administration negotiated a deal to keep Mayor Muriel Bowser's appointed police chief, Pamela Smith, in charge of the police department after DC Attorney General Brian Schwab filed a lawsuit to block the federal takeover of the department.

Trump, a Republican, said this week he was deploying hundreds of DC National Guard troops to Washington and temporarily taking over the Democratic-led city's police department to curb what he depicted as a crime and homelessness emergency.

## Iraq uncovers suspected IS burial site near Mosul

AFP, Baghdad



Iraqi authorities have begun excavating the site of a mass grave believed to contain thousands of victims of the Islamic State (IS) group near Mosul city, the project's director told AFP yesterday.

The first phase, which was launched on August 10, includes surface-level excavation at the Khasfa site, director Ahmed al-Assadi said.

An AFP correspondent visiting the site in northern Iraq yesterday said the team unearthed human skulls buried in the sand. Khasfa is located near Mosul, where IS had established the capital of their self-declared “caliphate” before being defeated in Iraq in late 2017.

## Trump defends global war involvement

### Cites India-Pakistan tensions as example

NDTV ONLINE

US President Donald Trump has again brought up the recent India-Pakistan conflict, reiterating his claim that the US helped in averting a nuclear escalation between the two Asian neighbours.

India maintains that the May conflict ended through a ceasefire sought by Pakistan after suffering heavy damage. Pakistan had credited Trump, echoing him as it has been doing to gain the US attention.

Trump said his main goal is to “save lives”, trying to justify his involvement in conflicts worldwide, even if those didn't impact the US on a significant scale, in an interview with Fox News, after his unsuccessful summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

His response came to a question by Fox News's Sean Hannity, who sought to know if he wanted to save the world.

“Number one, to save lives in all



cases, because wars are wars. When you see what would have happened with Cambodia as an example. Now, I'm not involved, but I was involved in negotiating a trade deal. And I said, you guys are going to be fighting Thailand, Cambodia, so many different,” the President replied.

Bringing up India-Pakistan tensions, he went on to claim that he averted what could have led to a nuclear escalation.

“Take a look at India and Pakistan. They were shooting down airplanes already. And that would have been

maybe nuclear. I would have said it was going to go nuclear. And I was able to get it done,” he said.

“Number one is lives. And number two is everything else. Wars are very bad,” he added.

India and Pakistan had engaged in a brief four-day conflict following the Pahalgam terror attack in April 22. In the massacre, 26 innocent civilians were shot dead in cold blood by Pakistan-linked terrorists while vacationing in the scenic Baisaran valley in Pahalgam.


In response, Indian forces had carried out Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terror camps deep within Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

This continued till May 10, when Pakistan approached the Indian side and requested a ceasefire. However, Trump claimed that the hostilities ended due to his involvement that came with a tariff threat - a claim that India has denied multiple times.




This handout photograph, taken and released yesterday by Turkish news agency DHA, shows a firefighting plane spraying water over a scorched area following a wildfire in the Gelibolu district of Çanakkale, northwestern Turkey.

PHOTO: AFP



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**Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Bangladesh Industry Research, Development & Innovation (BIRD) Grants**

No. FD/SICIP/BIRD/149/2024/1871

Date: 14 August 2025

1. The Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, is implementing the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP) with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The program aims to develop a skilled workforce through advanced technical and competency-based training across the country. SICIP seeks to establish a robust quality assurance mechanism, enabling effective collaboration between training institutions and industries to foster human resource development in priority industry sectors.

2. Under output-2 of Scheme 1 (Advanced Technical Skills, Managerial Capability, and R&D-Driven Innovation Capacity Development for Priority and Emerging Industries) of SICIP Bangladesh Industry Research Development & Innovation (BIRD) Grants has been introduced to support industry-oriented research, development, and innovation.

3. The BIRD Grants are designed to:

- Promote applied, industry-driven R&D for innovative solutions to create value added products, improved industrial processes and environmentally friendly technologies.
- Establish industry and academia partnerships for collaborative innovation and advanced skill development.
- Facilitate technology transfer and inclusion of global best practices in industrial production
- Support to enhance industry capacity for innovation to increase productivity and global market competitiveness.
- Increase participation of industries in RDI activities and to accelerate integration of green technology and climate resilient practices for sustainable development.

4. Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must fall under one or more of the following categories:

- An academic entity or training institutions based in Bangladesh.
- A student team within any academic entity based in Bangladesh and comprehensively supervised by an academic faculty.
- An industry entity based in Bangladesh.
- An individual endorsed by industry and preferably by a registered educational/ research/ training institutions based within Bangladesh.

Applicants fall under any of the following category shall not be eligible to apply:

- Unregistered business entity or academic institution
- A defense related or aligned institution or industry (including supplies)
- Not compliant with laws of Bangladesh, including required licenses, permits

5. SICIP now invites eligible applicants to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) using the standard EOI template available on the official BIRD website: <https://birdi.sicip.gov.bd>. Only online submissions via the BIRD website will be considered for evaluation. (Detailed BIRD Guidelines may be viewed from <https://sicip.gov.bd/resources/birdi/>)

6. EOIs will be shortlisted based on the following key factors:

- Clear definition of the industry problem and the proposed R&D-based solution (visual aids optional).
- Description of academic and industry partners, including background and history of collaboration.
- Demonstrated value to industry in terms of efficiency, competitiveness, and economic impact.
- Commitment to ethical practices and sustainable development principles.
- Concrete plans to generate higher-skilled employment within the target sector.
- Anticipated long-term impact on research, academic curricula, and academia-industry collaboration.

7. The deadline for submission of EOIs is 4:00 PM (Bangladesh time), 10 September 2025. It is important to note that there will be a workshop on EOI submission. The details of the workshop will be available upon registering in the BIRD portal. EOI submission will be activated after the workshop. SICIP will not be responsible for any costs associated with the workshop participation, preparation or submission of EOIs. SICIP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason.

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GD-1808