



A handout picture released by the Marine Nationale (French Navy) yesterday shows its Carrier Strike Group that includes the flagship aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle (unseen) and its escort transiting the Suez Canal en route to the southern Red Sea to pre-position for a possible mission to restore navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. PHOTO: AFP

Russia choosing war

Says Zelensky as 28 people killed in strikes; dual ceasefires falter

AFP, Kyiv

President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday said that Russia had decided to reject efforts to halt fighting and save lives by launching fresh attacks on Ukraine, which had called a unilateral ceasefire.

His comments raise the spectre of retaliatory Ukrainian strikes on Moscow during mass public events celebrating the end of World War II on May 9, after the Kremlin announced it would hold off attacks on Ukraine that day, hoping Kyiv would do the same.

"Russia's choice is an obvious spurning of a ceasefire and of saving lives," Zelensky wrote on social media.

Ukraine, he added, had earlier vowed to "act in kind" to the Russian ceasefire proposal this weekend, when Russians typically flood streets across the country to mark victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

"It is obvious to any reasonable person that a full-scale war and the daily murdering of people are a bad time for public celebrations," the Ukrainian leader said.

Kyiv said Russia had attacked eastern and southern Ukraine with more than 100 drones overnight, a day after Russian strikes killed almost 30 Ukrainian civilians.

Moscow had never said it would abide by Kyiv's call to halt fire from midnight on May 6 – a counter-truce Zelensky proposed after Russia announced a ceasefire to cover its Victory Day parade Saturday on Red Square in Moscow.

Zelensky had dismissed Russia's "utter cynicism" for calling for a ceasefire to protect the parade – one of the most important days of the year for Russian leader Vladimir Putin – while launching deadly strikes on his country.

A Ukrainian officer at the eastern front, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP: "The enemy continued to carry out infantry raids and attempts to storm our positions."

Since Russia "did not comply" with the

Kyiv suggested ceasefire, "our unit responded in kind and countered all provocations", he added.

Another frontline commander said: "The intensity of combat operations remains at the same level."

His unit, he said, was also responding: "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth!"

attacked after Kyiv's unilateral truce was supposed to come into effect at midnight.

Late on Tuesday, Ukrainian drone attacks on the north of Russian-annexed Crimea killed five people, Moscow-installed authorities in the peninsula said.

The strike hit hours after Russia had pounded several Ukrainian cities with the



Kyiv said at least one person had been killed in the overnight strikes.

Russian forces also struck a kindergarten in the eastern border region of Sumy on Wednesday morning, killing a security guard, local officials said.

The Kremlin has not commented on the Kyiv proposed ceasefire, only calling for Ukraine to halt attacks for May 9.

Moscow's defence ministry said it had downed 53 Ukrainian drones between 21:00 and 07:00 (1800-0400 GMT) – far fewer than in previous days.

It did not say whether any of the drones

deadliest attacks in weeks – killing at least 28 people in 24 hours.

Zelensky called on Ukraine's allies to condemn the attacks. A strike on the centre of Zaporizhzhia city, which killed 12 people, had "absolutely no military justification", he added.

Kyiv on Tuesday hit deep inside Russia, killing two people in Cheboksary, a city on the Volga, hundreds of miles from Ukraine.

The attacks have created a sense of nervousness in Russia ahead of the May 9 parade. Moscow has said it will remove military hardware from the procession for the first time in almost 20 years.

N Korea drops 'unification' from charter

AFP, Seoul

North Korea has deleted all references to uniting with South Korea from its constitution, a document reviewed by AFP yesterday showed, underscoring Pyongyang's push for a more hostile policy towards Seoul.

North and South Korea remain technically at war because their 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Pyongyang's constitution had previously contained a clause stating that it aimed "to realise the unification of the motherland".

That reference no longer appears in the latest version, presented yesterday by a professor during a news conference at South Korea's Unification Ministry and subsequently seen by AFP.

The revised constitution, which the document indicated was introduced in March, also includes a new clause delineating North Korea's territory.

Using South Korea's official name, it says that includes the area bordering China and Russia to the north, "and the Republic of Korea to the south".

North Korea "absolutely does not allow any infringement on its territory", it added.

G7 nations decry 'economic coercion' in swipe at China

AFP, Paris

The trade ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations yesterday criticised "economic coercion" by powers placing arbitrary restrictions on exports, particularly critical minerals, in a clear swipe at China.

While never mentioning China by name, the ministers clearly took aim at Beijing and its stringent export controls on rare earths in their statement, after two days of meetings in France.

"We express our grave concerns regarding economic coercion, including coercion through arbitrary export restrictions that may lead to supply chain disruptions, notably for critical minerals, and undermine economic security and resilience," the ministers said.

China dominates the global industry for rare earths, which are critical for making a wide range of products – from everyday consumer electronics to equipment used in the defence sector.

The country's leaders leveraged that strength in spectacular fashion last year, reaching a deal with Washington in October to pause a blistering trade war after Beijing's curbs on their exports sent shockwaves across supply chains.

The G7 ministers vowed to work with partners to not only reduce their dependency upon rare earths, but to "ensure that attempts or threats to weaponise economic dependencies will fail."

"We seek to deter and stand ready to take actions, where necessary, against economic coercion," they added.

Pakistan Navy helps stranded Indian ship in Arabian Sea

AGENCIES

The Pakistani navy reportedly responded to a distress call from an Indian ship stranded in the Arabian Sea after a critical technical failure, assisting the crew with food, medical and other emergency support.

The vessel, named MV Gautam, had suffered a critical technical failure while en route from Oman to India, leaving it stranded at sea, news agency Reuters reported, citing a Pakistani military statement.

The Pakistan Navy launched a rescue and support operation for the crew – six Indians and one Indonesian – after the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre in Mumbai contacted authorities in Islamabad and requested assistance.

Responding to the request, the Pakistan Navy deployed the ship named PMSS Kashmir to carry out rescue operations.

Emergency assistance, including food, medical aid, and technical support, was provided to the crew of MV Gautam to stabilise the vessel and ensure the crew's safety, the statement said.

The navy was reportedly assisted by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) in the rescue and support operation.

The Gulf Times tweeted the video of the rescue mission, where the Pakistan Navy's boat can be seen helping MV Gautam's crew members.

The vessel experienced a total power failure on May 3 due to a generator malfunction. At the time of the incident, the vessel was located within the Pakistan Search and Rescue Region (SRR).



Israeli security forces patrol during a military raid at the Qalandia refugee camp, south of the city of Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday. The refugee camp, Kufir Aqab and other areas around Jerusalem have seen increased Israeli raids since the beginning of 2026 after Israel launched operation "Capital Shield". The military has arrested dozens of Palestinians and destroyed several buildings it said had been illegally built in these areas. PHOTO: AFP

UN demands Israel release Gaza flotilla activists

AFP, Geneva

The UN yesterday called on Israel to immediately release two activists taken from a Gaza-bound flotilla, and demanded an investigation into "disturbing accounts" that they had been severely mistreated.

Spanish national Saif Abu Keshk and Brazilian Thiago Avila, who are held in a prison in Ashkelon, were among dozens of activists on a Gaza-bound flotilla intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters off the coast of Greece last Thursday.

"Israel must immediately and unconditionally release Global Sumud Flotilla members, who were detained in international waters and brought to Israel where they continue to be held without charge," UN rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan said.

"It is not a crime to show solidarity and attempt to bring humanitarian aid to the Palestinian population in Gaza, who are in dire need of it," he insisted.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬, আগারগাঁও

শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

www.doe.gov.bd

নং-২২.০২.০০০০.০২৬.১৬.০৩২.১৯-৫২

তারিখঃ ২১/০১/১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৪/০৫/১০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

কৃষিমাটি সুরক্ষা ও বায়ুদূষণ রোধে পোড়ানো ইটের পরিবর্তে ব্লক ব্যবহার করুন

কৃষিমাটি সুরক্ষা ও বায়ুদূষণ রোধে সরকার সকল প্রকার সরকারি নির্মাণ ও সংস্কার কাজে পোড়ানো ইটের পরিবর্তে ব্লক ব্যবহার (মহাসড়ক ব্যতীত) বাধ্যতামূলক করেছে। ব্লক ব্যবহারে কৃষিমাটি সুরক্ষা ও বায়ুদূষণ রোধ ছাড়াও নিম্নরূপ সুফল ও সুবিধাদি রয়েছেঃ

ব্লক ব্যবহারের সুফল ও সুবিধাদি

- "অপোড়ানো পদ্ধতির ব্লক উৎপাদন প্রক্রিয়া বায়ু দূষণ সৃষ্টি করে না"- ফলে এটি জনস্বাস্থ্যের জন্য সহায়ক;
- ব্লক উৎপাদনে মাটির পরিবর্তে বালি, ডেজিৎ ম্যাটেরিয়াল, পরিত্যক্ত বিস্ত্রিংয়ের কংক্রিট, বিভিন্ন ধরনের বর্জ্য ইত্যাদি ব্যবহারের ফলে কৃষি জমির উর্বর মাটি রক্ষা ও বনজ সম্পদের অপচয় রোধ হয়;
- নদীর ডেজড ম্যাটেরিয়াল ব্যবহার করা যায় বিধায় নদীর নাব্যতা বৃদ্ধির সাথে সাথে ব্লক তৈরীর কীচামাল প্রাপ্তিতে সহায়ক ভূমিকা রাখে;
- স্থায়ীকাল ও কাঠামোগত ভারসাম্য বেশী ও অধিক ভূমিকম্প সহনীয়;
- ব্লক নির্মিত অবকাঠামো তাপ ও অগ্নি নিরোধক এবং শব্দদূষণ রোধে সহায়তা করে;
- বায়ুদূষণ ও কার্বন ডাই-অক্সাইড নিঃসরণ হ্রাস করে বৈশ্বিক উষ্ণায়ন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনে ইতিবাচক ভূমিকা রাখে;
- সারা বছরব্যাপী ব্লক উৎপাদন করা যায় এবং ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি উদ্যোক্তারা এই কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারে।

এমতাবস্থায়, পরিবেশ সুরক্ষা, কৃষি জমির মাটি সংরক্ষণ এবং জনস্বাস্থ্য ও টেকসই উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে ইটের বিকল্প হিসেবে পরিবেশবান্ধব ব্লক উৎপাদন ও ব্যবহারে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা ও সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণ কামনা করা যাচ্ছে।

মহাপরিচালক
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

GD-1043